

PRIZE PUZZLE

Times Two crossword offers a weekly chance to win British Midland flights, page 48



JULIAN CRITCHLEY

Michael Heseltine is looking like a leader in waiting again, page 18



SCHOOL IN REVOLT

Rugby's head girl says: welcome to the real world, boys, page 5

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,294

THURSDAY JUNE 15 1995

Mother fights on for 'justice': prosecution condemned by Police Federation

Joy Gardner case police cleared of manslaughter

BY RICHARD DUCE

THERE were angry recriminations from rank-and-file police and the black community last night after a woman detective was cleared of the manslaughter of the illegal immigrant Joy Gardner. The mother-of-two died bound and gagged when she put up violent resistance to a deportation order.

Detective Sergeant Linda Evans, 43, was close to tears and mouthed "Thank you" at the jury of seven men and five women who had spent more than nine hours considering their verdicts after the four-week trial. Scotland Yard said that Detective Sergeant Evans and PC Colin Whitty, 48, would be reinstated, but the Police Complaints Authority had to decide whether they should face internal disciplinary charges. Scotland Yard's alien deportation group from which the officers were drawn is to remain suspended.

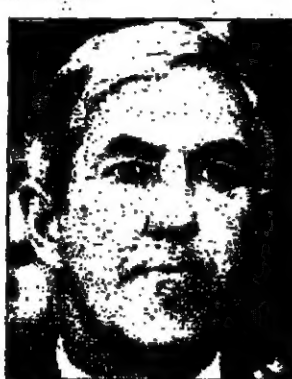
Immediately after the verdict Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan branch of the Police Federation, criticised the decision to prosecute them in the first place. The officers were "scapegoats for a system that was approved at the highest level", Mr Bennett said. The case was "not so much a prosecution, as a persecution".

"The actual investigation and decision to prosecute was straight out of the Pontius Pilate book of justice. Everyone seemed to wash their hands of them," he said.

But Mrs Gardner's mother,



PC Colin Whitty: reinstated by the Yard



Sir Paul Condon: "tragic experience for all"

Myrna Simpson, 57, said she would continue to fight. "I'm fighting till I die for justice for Joy," she said. Mrs Simpson said she was "disgusted and really saddened" by the verdict and accused the judge and jury of being biased. "The judge was telling them from the beginning to release the officers," she said.

Members of Mrs Gardner's family are now to bring civil proceedings against Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and the Immigration Service on behalf of Mrs Gardner's son Graeme, 7.

Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, north London, gave warning last night that people might look to under-estimate means of expressing their anger at the verdicts. "In this case we behaved ourselves, played the game and used the system. It has let us down. I'm afraid that in future people may well find other ways of expressing their an-

ger." However, he urged protesters to use democratic means and called for no violence from the black community.

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said: "This has been a tragic and painful experience for all those concerned — particularly for the family and friends of Joy Gardner, for whom the pain was perhaps greater because of the circumstances and the publicity surrounding it."

Mrs Gardner, 40, died after a violent struggle with members of Scotland Yard's alien deportation group who called at her home in July 1993 to escort her to a plane back to Jamaica. Her son, then aged five, was also at the flat in Hornsey, north London, and heard his mother's screams.

It was alleged that the police had acted as a law unto themselves in gagging Mrs Gardner with 13ft of adhesive

tape to prevent her biting them. She was also restrained with a body belt and leather straps around her thighs and ankles.

Detective Sergeant Evans and PC Whitty told the jury that Mrs Gardner had been in "a fury" and would not listen to reason when they forced their way into her home early in the morning in July 1993.

The jury decided the two officers had acted reasonably in the circumstances and had not behaved unlawfully. They were cleared of manslaughter. PC John Burrell, 43, was cleared earlier in the trial on the directions of the judge.

Jane Coker, solicitor for Mrs Simpson, said: "Justice has not been done in this case. The full circumstances leading up to Joy's violent death, the role played by the Home Office, the Immigration Service and the police will only be known if there is a full, open public inquiry."

At the end of the trial, the judge thanked the jury for their attention during the case. "It has been one of the most difficult in my experience."

At the start of the trial, special security measures were taken to protect the jury and the defendants from intimidation. Mr Justice Mummery noticed jurors looking "from time to time at the public gallery". As a result the trial was switched to a court where the jury sit under the public gallery and do not have eye contact with anyone in it.

Desperate search, page 3



Detective Sergeant Linda Evans: close to tears as she mouthed "thank you"

Clarke tells City he, too, is not for turning

BY JANET BUSH AND NICHOLAS WOOD

KENNETH CLARKE portrayed himself last night as the "Iron Chancellor". Bolstering the Government's commitment to conquering inflation, he warned spending ministers against derailing the prospect of tax cuts and promised to keep the hopes and fears of Middle England at the top of his agenda.

In a speech to City bankers at the Mansion House, a buoyant Mr Clarke mixed tough economics with high politics as he sought to lift the spirits of a demoralised Conservative Party by insisting that his firm grip on the nation's finances, coupled with continued steady growth, would soon pay political as well as economic dividends.

In essence, Mr Clarke presented himself as the master of his own ship and deliberately invited comparisons with Baroness Thatcher by praising her courage in the face of adversity. Last night his friends were hailing the speech, saying that the Chancellor had been vindicated in his decision to defy the experts and hold down interest rates. In doing so he was showing the self-confidence and determination needed to dispel the gloom enveloping the Government.

"This is the Chancellor saying 'I am an Iron Chancellor. I say what I mean, and I mean what I say,'" one of his supporters declared.

In his speech, Mr Clarke extended into the future the Government's commitment to a 2.5 per cent inflation target, insisting that achieving and maintaining that figure was the only way to deliver the Prime Minister's promise to double living standards over Continued on page 2, col 5

Peter Riddell, page 11
Leading article, page 19
Business News, pages 25, 26

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TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48

Outbreak of fantasy lottery wins

BY JEREMY LAURANCE HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS have identified a new delusional illness triggered by publicity surrounding the National Lottery. Dubbed "Lottomania," the condition has affected two London women who needed hospital admission and drug treatment after becoming convinced they had won the lottery jackpot.

One of the women, aged 58, believed she had won £2 million. She became upset when staff at her building society said they had no record of her large deposit.

Far from enthusing over their luck, both women became convinced that they were being threatened by neighbours who were trying to deprive them of their winnings.

The cases were disclosed yesterday by Dr Harry Doyle, a consultant psychiatrist at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow. "Both recovered with drug treatment but they were serious enough to be admitted to hospital," he said.

"I would wager this type of delusional belief will become more common given the current public and media preoccupation with the lottery," Dr Doyle said.

"I'm sure plenty of people are addicted. The fear is that if you stop, that is the week that you will actually win. There is compulsion to repeatedly buy the tickets."

Lancashire appoints first woman chief constable

BY KATE ALDERSON

BRITAIN'S first woman chief constable was appointed last night when Pauline Clare, 47, was chosen to head the Lancashire force.

Mrs Clare, a butcher's daughter who joined the police as a teenage cadet and is deputy chief constable of Cheshire, was unanimously selected from a shortlist of five for the £71,000-a-year post to replace Brian Johnson who retired last year.

Lancashire Police Authority, made up of 12 men and five women, selected Mrs Clare from a list of five, which included John Hamilton, the national director of criminal intelligence and Peter Ryan, the national director of police training.

Yesterday's appointment brings Mrs Clare, who was formerly married to a superintendent with Merseyside police and is now married to a solicitor, back to the force where she began her police career as a 17-year-old cadet.

She will be in charge of the country's eighth largest force of 3,212 uniformed officers, 476 of whom are women, with a £155m annual budget.

Mrs Clare, who has spent most of her career in Merseyside police, became assistant chief constable of that force in 1992. She was appointed in the wake of the sex discrimination case which Alison Halford, an assistant chief constable, brought against the force but eventually dropped after an agreement on a cash package and pension.

Miss Halford claimed she was unable to rise above the rank of assistant chief because of a male-dominated culture that was prejudiced against women.

Mrs Clare was seen as the woman who could repair the damage and build bridges after the Halford affair. Shortly after her appointment, she said: "If someone treats me in a sexist way I will deal with them personally or take it to someone higher but I would not go to the press."

Mrs Clare, the eldest of seven children from Chorley, Lancashire, was a highly-motivated child who became head of her local secondary modern school, a Girl Guide patrol leader and a member of

the St John Ambulance Brigade. She said she joined the police "to do service for the community. I'd always been a person who was happy to conform to the rules."

Mrs Clare is described as belonging to the "new school" of policing. She has an Open University degree in psychology, gained after seven years of weekend study, and was awarded an honorary fellowship by Central Lancashire University last year. She lists her hobbies as gardening, preparing and hosting dinner parties and horseriding.

She talks of the need for police to be caring, is reported to regard Nelson Mandela as one of her heroes and is an ardent supporter of community policing. During the past nine months she has repeatedly told officers in Cheshire that community relations are the responsibility of all officers.

She is described by colleagues as level-headed, firm, politically aware, highly experienced and with an instinct for when it is appropriate to be cool and reserved.

Inspector Colin Berry, secretary of the Lancashire Police Federation, said last night: "We are very pleased for Mrs Clare. She started her career in Lancashire and this force has a great tradition as an innovator. More and more in this day and age we look at people for their ability and not at their gender."



Clare: joined force as a teenage cadet

Clinton calls for big cuts in US budget

President Clinton has taken one of the biggest gambles of his presidency by challenging Republican plans to balance America's budget with one of his own.

His announcement during a nationally-televised Oval Office address instantly transformed the debate in Washington from one about whether to end more than two decades of deficit spending to one about how. Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican leader, called it "a moment of powerful potential" that "we must seize or forever bear the judgment of history." But in demanding deep cuts in government spending, the President ignored White House advisers to stay on the sidelines. Page 15

Smuggling laws are reviewed

The rules by which centuries of warfare between customs officers and smugglers have been fought are to change, with nearly 60 offences of smuggling removed from the criminal law.

Customs and Excise are planning from next year to decentralise many minor smuggling offences. They would no longer be dealt with by the courts and would become civil matters punishable by fine. Offences involved include bribery, obstruction of customs officers and failure to declare anything in baggage. Page 6

Drop (kick) into Tie Rack



Don't leave your gift until the last minute like ROB ANDREW

Father's Day
June 18th

The outlook is not All Black...

Tie Rack
Adds colour to your life

LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 18

ARTS 33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE 42
COURT & SOCIAL 20

SPORT 42-46, 48
LAW REPORT 41
TRAVEL NEWS 22, 23

Boundary changes bring out the bounders



Garnier: eyeing nearby seat

THEY are scraping the raised eyebrows from the ceiling of the members' smoking room. According to weekend gossip, Edward Garnier (C, Harborough) is angling for another East Midlands constituency. He has his eye on a neighbouring seat: Rutland and Melton. Even after forthcoming boundary changes, this patch remains rock-solid Conservative. The seat based on what is now called Harborough becomes a little less safe.

Splendid plan. One drawback: Rutland & Melton already has an MP: Alan Duncan. Mr Duncan is reported to be incensed. At 38, he had not planned to retire.

Maybe there has been a misunderstanding? In theory, a rejigged boundary between neighbours gives



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

each MP the right to try for either seat. In practice, moving in on what is seen as another fellow's seat can be the single worst sin you can commit in the Tory club, less forgivable than murdering your mother, voting to ban fox-hunting, being found in *flagrante delicto* with a brigadier's daughter, or running over your constituency lady chairman's Cairn Terrier.

Or, indeed, and less controversially, running over the brigadier's daughter and being found in *flagrante delicto* with the terrier.

There are chaps on the Tory backbenches (wild horses would not drag their

names from us) who were rumoured to have made moves on other chaps' constituencies in the 70s — and are still mentioned today in horrified whispers, their offence as fresh in the party's folk memory as the day it was committed. Poaching seats among Tories is like dynamiting fish among anglers.

It was therefore unlikely for Mr Garnier that his question (put down weeks ago) appeared on the order paper yesterday. Question 3: Mr Edward Garnier (Harborough): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what his department is doing to promote exports from

the East Midlands." Since tabling that question, Garnier has begun an export drive all on his own, starting with plans to export himself. This is an export too far. A wall of import barriers is being hastily erected around Rutland & Melton. Free trade has its limits.

After prayers, a wicked grin spread across Dennis Skinner's face. A corresponding determination not to notice Mr Skinner took root in Madam Speaker's breast. Mr Garnier, tense but composed, sat some way down the chamber, towards the back.

Ten yards up from him sat Mr Duncan. It was probably the first occasion on which the grinding of an MP's teeth has become audible up in the press gallery. The question was quickly reached. A ripple

of giggles ran around the chamber as MP's read it, and the penny dropped. Garnier called "number three, Madam". The junior minister, Richard Needham, got up and bumbled a little awkwardly about regional export promotion.

Garnier rose. So did the giggles. So did Dennis Skinner. Miss Boothroyd ignored the last two. Embarrassed — and gabbling — Mr Garnier galloped through a prepared paean of praise to "the Business Link office in Market Harborough" and the "co-operation of the Foreign Office" in promoting exports... "not only from my own constituency..." Duncan's patience snapped. "But from mine as well!"

The front bench weaved. How painful it is to have to report these family rows.

Minister offers IRA weapons amnesty

Sir John Wheeler, the Northern Ireland security minister, said yesterday that the Government would find ways of helping paramilitaries to decommission their weapons within the law. He told BBC Radio Ulster: "The terrorists gangs must get rid of the explosives and weaponry, and I'll help them in that process. I will devise legal mechanisms, if need be, to assist them to get rid of these unwanted weapons."

Sir John repeated that the IRA would have to begin to decommission its weapons before Sinn Féin could be admitted to the full political process. His insistence came as Gerry Adams, who is in South Africa to learn from the African National Congress, reiterated in an article for the *Irish Times* that the IRA would not hand over weapons before a political settlement. He accused the Government of "demanding the start of a surrender process as a precondition to all-party talks. It is, in reality, attempting to achieve by stealth what it could not achieve in 25 years of military conflict."

French join rail bid

A French water company may soon be operating commuter trains from Waterloo. The transport arm of Générale des Eaux is linking up with managers and staff at South West Trains to bid for services to Surrey, Berkshire, Hampshire, Somerset and Dorset. The subsidiary, CGEA, already operates rail and bus services in France and Portugal. South West Trains managers and staff would retain a controlling 51 per cent stake in the venture.

Tube back in profit

London Transport has returned its first profit for 20 years. The £40 million operating surplus compares with a £63 million loss last year. The number of passenger journeys made on the Underground rose 4 per cent to 764 million during the 12 months to March, bringing in ticket revenue of £765.1 million. A £686 million government grant was provided for investment last year and £228 million was raised from privatising the ten London bus companies and advertising.

Car thief's solo spree

One man was responsible for 20 per cent of the car thefts last year in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, police said. The man, from Coleford, admitted the offences, and 40 more in Kent, after he had been convicted of two thefts and jailed for six months. "These offences were not provable and were admitted only as part of a 'wiping the slate clean' exercise," police said. Since the man's conviction, car thefts in the district have dropped by 45 per cent.

Police surround house

Armed police were surrounding a house where a man was holding a woman hostage last night for the second time. Steven Wood, 39, was released from prison four months ago after serving 3½ years for the kidnap and rape of the same woman. His sentence was reduced for good conduct. This time the woman's daughter, believed to be in her twenties, was also being held. The siege in a terraced house in Hull began on Saturday after Mr Wood went there with a gun.

Motor neurone trial

A new drug has slowed the progress of motor neurone disease in trials in Canada and the United States. Patients using the drug, Myotrophin, showed 25 per cent less deterioration over a nine-month period than those who did not. In laboratory experiments, the drug has been shown to help regenerate motor neurones, which transmit messages from nerves to muscles. The Motor Neurone Disease Association described the results as "encouraging".

Doorstep milk plea

The head of Britain's biggest milk producers' co-operative has called for urgent action to save doorstep milk deliveries. Andrew Dare, chief executive of Milk Marque, said the Government should withdraw a road vehicle tax of £35 a year on electric milk floats, due to take effect on July 1, and seek European Union grants to subsidise the cost of bringing milk to people's homes. Milkmen face cut-throat competition from the supermarkets, who can undercut by 14p a pint.

THE TIMES Training videos offer

DO YOU want to make a powerful impression on your boss and be influential in your office? *Winning Ways*, a training video featuring the late Brian Redhead, tells you how.

In a witty and penetrating conversation Redhead and Andrew Kakabadse, professor of management at Cranfield School of Management, make points which are vital to people who work for organisations and are deeply interested in enhancing their careers.

Another video, *Mentoring*, explores one of the fastest-growing methods of developing people within a business. Mentoring is a way in which experienced staff help other people through transition periods, perhaps by showing them new skills or by helping them adjust to a new job.

Winning Ways runs for 27 minutes. *Mentoring* for more than 19 minutes. These videos are normally sold at £49 each. *Times* readers can buy them for the special price of £49 for two, inclusive of post and packing.

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Police investigate church sex abuse over four decades

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are conducting a big inquiry into allegations of child sex abuse within the Roman Catholic church in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry, covering the past 40 years, was disclosed yesterday after the jailing of Father Danny Curran, who was sentenced in Belfast to seven years for a series of sex offences against boys.

Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, said he was supporting the inquiry and vehemently denied that the Church had shielded paedophile priests. He confirmed that he had already met two senior RUC detectives to consider how the Church could help.

"There is no cover-up. There is no safe haven. There is no shelter. We are as concerned about this matter as anybody is," Dr Daly said.

He was "deeply pained" by the latest case. "I am horrified at the reports of this situation. I think of the poor children who were abused and the trauma they suffered. I'm concerned about their fam-

ilies. I'm concerned about the public who are scandalised."

Belfast Crown Court was told that Curran, 45, who worked on the Falls Road in West Belfast, was an alcoholic. He lured boys to his remote cottage near Downpatrick, where he had plied them with drink before attacking them.

He admitted 13 charges, including one of attempted

Charity says one in six molested

A children's charity was criticised yesterday after claiming that one in six people had been interfered with sexually before the age of 16. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said it was surprised by the figures, based on interviews with 1,032 adults, aged under 50, but said they had been checked. John Bowis, a Health Minister, said the definition used, which included indecent exposure and voyeurism, was too broad.

The Most Rev Thomas Flynn, the Bishop of Achonry, Co Roscommon, who is drawing up plans for the hierarchy's response to child abuse, said the Church was preparing to deal with a series of embarrassing cases. "It is natural enough to assume that there will be a number of cases coming forward at this time because of incidents that happened over the past 40 years."

buggery, nine of indecent assault, and one each of gross indecency and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Some of the nine victims, aged 11 to 13, were altar boys.

Yesterday the RUC declined to comment on its investigation, which was launched last year after Father Brendan Smyth, 67, a Norbertine Order priest, was jailed for four years. BBC Radio Ulster said that police had interviewed hundreds of people who had lived in children's homes that Smyth may have visited. It is understood that detectives uncovered allegations of abuse by priests and nuns at four homes dating back 40 years.

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Robert Benton, aged 23 months, will be buried today. Last night his mother, Julie Benton, 23, a bank insurance officer, said: "I don't know why my baby died. I don't believe he should have died. He was healthy till the day before."

Robert was taken to Sandwell District General Hospital, West Bromwich, near the family home in Rowley Regis, at 12.45pm last Wednesday, after a cough he had developed led to breathing difficulties. David Clifton, Mrs Benton's uncle, said that

building work was going on at Sandwell hospital and there was "total confusion".

Mr and Mrs Benton drove Robert ten miles to the Good Hope District General Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, where he died in the operating theatre.

West Midlands Regional Health Authority said: "We will do everything in our power to find out the circumstances of this incident."

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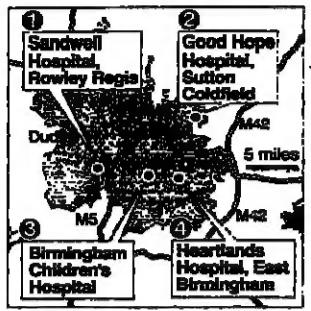
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Child dies after tour of four hospitals

By TIM JONES

A HEALTH authority has begun an investigation after the death of a child whose distraught parents took him to four hospitals in eight hours.

Robert Benton, aged 23 months, will be buried today. Last night his mother, Julie Benton, 23, a bank insurance officer, said: "I don't know why my baby died. I don't believe he should have died. He was healthy till the day before."

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Robert Benton: parents tried to get help for eight hours

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Desperate battle to avoid deportation began with failure of marriage of convenience

Search for a better life that ended in death

BY RICHARD FORD

TO her mother and friends Joy Gardner was a caring woman, anxious to make a better life for herself and her young son. But to her husband and police she was an illegal immigrant with a violent streak, desperate to avoid deportation.

Her early life mirrored the experience of thousands of other West Indians whose parents came to Britain in the Fifties and Sixties, seeking a better future in the "mother country".

She was born in Long Bay, Jamaica, in 1953, when her mother, Myrna, was 15. When she was seven, her mother left the small town 20 miles from Kingston to come to London, leaving Joy to be brought up by her grandmother and aunt. Joy was 34 when she came to Britain in July 1987, leaving behind a daughter, Lisa. She was allowed entry for six months as a visitor.

She did not tell British immigration officials when she landed that she was four months pregnant. Her son, Graeme, was born in October that year. She did not leave when the six months was up and, as in the case of many



Gardner: violent struggle

visitors classified as overstayers, the Home Office lost track of her movements.

It was next to learn of her whereabouts in September 1990 when Joseph Gardner, 57, a clerical worker from north London, wrote to say he had married Joy and that she should be given permanent residence rights. One month later Mr Gardner withdrew the request he had made on his wife's behalf. He said they had separated and he took out two injunctions to stop her coming to his home. After her death he said she had been

violent and that the marriage was a failure. Immigration officials suspected that her five-week marriage was solely for the purpose of getting British citizenship. This was confirmed by Mr Gardner after his wife's death. For, although Myrna Simpson, Mrs Gardner's mother, was British, changes to immigration law meant her adult daughter had no legal right to live in Britain permanently.

In October 1990, Mrs Gardner was told she should leave Britain or risk deportation and in that same month she was served with papers of illegal entry. Two months later she was interviewed by immigration officials but made no effort to leave.

In April 1991 her leave for application for judicial review of her case was refused and in October, she was served with a notice of intention to deport. She appealed against the order but a restriction order was placed upon her under which she had to report regularly to police.

In February 1992, her appeal to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal was rejected. The Home Office said it booked her on one flight to Jamaica in the summer of 1992



Myrna Simpson, Joy Gardner's mother, leaving the Old Bailey yesterday after police officers were cleared of her daughter's manslaughter

but she did not turn up at the airport.

Her solicitor appealed in January 1993 for her to stay because of "compelling compassionate circumstances". He highlighted the fact that she had no family who could

support her in Jamaica but had a mother, half sister, half brother, three uncles, two aunts and cousins living in Britain.

The lawyer added that she had her name down for a journalism course at Guild-

hall University and had a five-year-old son who had only ever known London as his home.

Nellie Sterling, a family friend, said: "She was a lovely, caring, kind mother who wanted to get a qualification in

Britain so she could provide for Graeme and her daughter Lisa."

But on July 28 the officers from the Metropolitan Police arrived at Mrs Gardner's modern housing association flat in Crouch End, north

London, to carry out the deportation. A violent struggle developed at the flat and Mrs Gardner collapsed. She died in Whittington hospital, north London, four days later.

Police cleared, page 1

Officers were suspended to avert potential riot

BY RICHARD FORD AND RICHARD DUCE

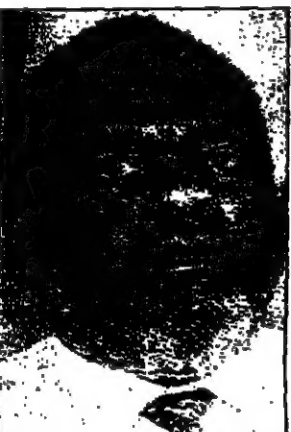
FACED with his first crisis since becoming Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon moved swiftly to head off a potential riot in the days after Joy Gardner's death.

Sir Paul suspended the officers involved, halted the work of the specialist deportation squad and expressed his "sadness and profound regret" over Mrs Gardner's death. His action provoked anger among members of the Metropolitan Police Federation but won him praise, in private, from senior figures in the black community.

Federation leaders were furious at what they claim was a decision to bow to pressure from Mrs Gardner's supporters, instead of backing loyal, hard-working police officers who had done nothing wrong.

Sir Paul's efforts to placate the black community by suspending the three immediately and meeting Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, were seen by some officers as a display of bias and disloyalty. But his decision to meet Mr Grant was intended to send a signal to the black community that he was taking their concerns seriously.

Sir Paul and senior officers were determined to do everything possible to ensure Mrs Gardner's death did not trigger a major riot in the way the death of Cynthia



Grant met Sir Paul

Jarrett during a police raid helped to spark the Broadwater Farm riots in 1985. Sir Paul was willing to hold a joint press conference at Scotland Yard with Mr Grant but that might have damaged Mr Grant's credibility.

Instead, Mr Grant sat at the back as Sir Paul announced his decisions and held his own press conference outside Scotland Yard. Civil liberties groups last night demanded tougher guidelines to protect illegal immigrants being forcibly deported under the supervision of private security firms.

Forcible deportations are being carried out by private firms, according to immigrant welfare groups, which say the use of body belts are reminiscent of devices used during the slave trade. They

said the private security firms hired by the Home Office to accompany deportees on flights out of Britain were less accountable than the police. "Since Joy Gardner's death things have got worse," Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said.

Private security firms supervised about 20 "in-flight" deportations a month up to the time of Mrs Gardner's death in August 1993. That represented about 50 per cent of "in-flight" escorts.

Mr Moraes said: "The security firms are entitled to restrain people but there's no accountability. Clearly we want properly trained personnel who are accountable, and these people are not."

Amnesty International criticised the involvement of private security firms. "They are not accountable to an independent statutory body, nor do they appear to be obliged to adhere to the law-enforcement regulations that apply to police officers."

In January 1994, Michael Howard announced the results of joint Home Office-Metropolitan Police review of removal procedures in deportation cases. It did not ban the use of physical restraints but said they should be used only once a detainee was on board an aircraft and where it was suspected a detainee would be violent, try to escape or put the safety of other passengers and crew at risk.

IN THE TIMES ON SATURDAY



Summer Sales

OUR GUIDE TO BARGAINS NATIONWIDE PLUS: THE BEST OF FRANCE

WEEKEND

THE 100 BEST SUMMER WINES IN THE

MAGAZINE

Stephanie Slater sells film rights

BY ALEXANDRA FRIAN

THE story of Stephanie Slater, the former estate agent who was kidnapped, raped and held captive for eight days by the murderer Michael Sams, is to be made into a £1.2 million television film.

Miss Slater, who has changed her name and now lives in seclusion on the Isle of Wight, will work as a consultant on the film, *Beyond Fear*, which will be ready for screening on British television next year. She is understood to have received £20,000 for the film rights and will receive a slice of the profits when the film is sold in other countries.

Insiders at the film's production company, Red Rooster, say that Jemma Redgrave, currently starring in the ITV historic drama *Bramwell*, and Imogen Stubbs, who features in the film *Jack and Sarah*, are favourites for the lead role. Pete Postlethwaite, whose credits include the film *In the Name of the Father* and the BBC series *Martin Chuzzlewit*, is tipped to play Sams.

Many people are now questioning the long term safety of Britain's radioactive waste.

They work for Nirex.

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To date Britain has produced enough intermediate-level radioactive waste (assuming current packaging techniques) to cover a football pitch to a height of about 40 feet. The same quantity again will be produced by early next century. So what do we do with it? At the moment it's in interim storage, behind suitable barriers on the surface - at nuclear power stations and other facilities.

But since we cannot rely on safely holding radioactive wastes there indefinitely, we clearly need to explore other options - which is where Nirex comes in.

We're here to research and develop a safe, deep underground disposal route for Britain's intermediate and some low level radioactive wastes. Currently, we are investigating a site near Sellafield, where 60% of the waste arises. We need to establish that rocks that have been with us for many millions of years are a safe place to dispose of wastes for many thousands.

Of course some of the most stringent safety requirements in the world will have to be met before the wastes, packed in steel and concrete containers, are placed in caverns deep underground, and surrounded with special cement. But already an intensive multi-million pound scientific programme is getting results. Bringing an answer to our questions that much closer.

NIREX

Responsible environmental management for radioactive wastes



هكنا من العمل

ANOTHER BODY THAT'S LOST A FEW POUNDS FOR THE SUMMER.



No wonder the Peugeot 106 Inca looks so good on the beach, or anywhere else for that matter. After all, its body coloured bumper skirts, full wheel covers and special Inca graphics are designed to attract a lot of attention.

Mind you, they do say beauty is only skin deep, but you only have to look inside at the Inca's special cloth trim, new Inca carpet mats and stereo radio cassette player to see that Peugeot have made the Inca just as attractive inside.

It comes in either Bermuda Blue or stunning Cherry Red, complete with a choice of either a 1.0 litre petrol or a 1.5 litre diesel engine.

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In addition to the Inca, there's also a special edition 106 Aztec this summer. It has everything you get from the Inca plus

tailgate wash/wipe and pop-up sunroof.

The 106 Aztec comes with Peugeot's nippy 1.1 litre petrol or 1.5 litre diesel engine and is available with 3 or 5 doors. And with a body colour of either Diablo Red or Miami Blue who could blame people for staring?

The Peugeot 106 also comes with one year's free motoring insurance[‡].

For more information on the Peugeot 106 Inca or Aztec call 0500 500 106 or visit your local Peugeot dealer.

THE PEUGEOT 106 INCA.

VISIT PEUGEOT THIS SUMMER

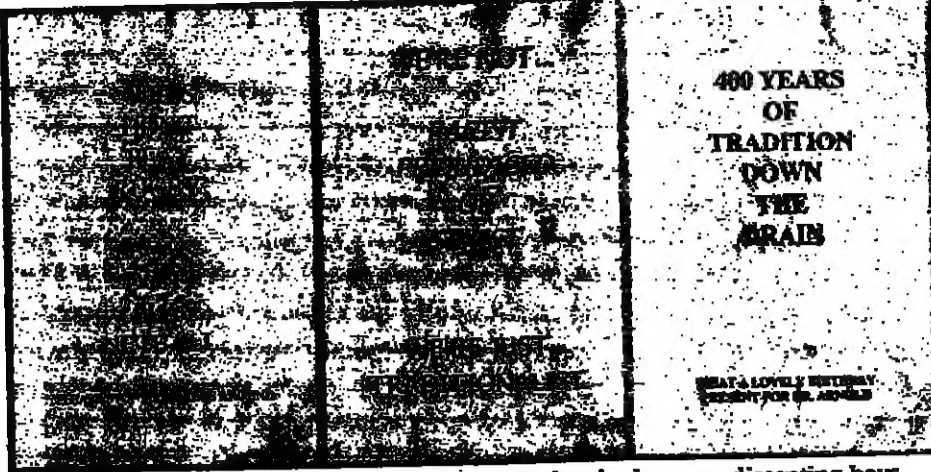
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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

'I'm not quitting. Welcome to the real world, boys'

Dissenters have accused Michael Mavor, Rugby's Head Master, of pandering to political correctness



Other protesters used wallpaper paste, rather than drawing pins as they had the previous night, to stick up three varieties of flyposter. Almost 250 posters were produced by the boys, who argue that the appointment of a head girl cannot be justified because Louise entered the school only last September.

Boys from houses which joined the chapel boycott on Tuesday morning were punished immediately. They were "gated" (banned from leaving their houses or school premises) for the rest of the

Graham Hedges, a mathematics teacher and the school's director of communications, praised Louise's reaction to the criticism. He said: "She is displaying exactly those qualities for which she was appointed. We did not expect her, however, to be

Louise went to Rugby last September after passing ten GCSE's at Oxford High School. Her father, Robin, is managing director of a British subsidiary of BMW. Her mother, Ruth, is a lecturer at Abingdon College of Further Education. Claire, 19, her sister, studied at Rugby.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person climbing a ladder against a brick wall. The image is grainy and has a stark, graphic quality. The person is silhouetted against the lighter brick wall, reaching up towards the top of the ladder. The ladder is positioned diagonally across the frame. The brick wall is composed of many small, rectangular bricks, creating a textured background. The overall composition is vertical, emphasizing the height of the climb.

What goes up: staff remove one of the flyposters

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One could get emotional about its looks too. The only coach built car in its class, everything from the petrol cap to the metal dashboard has an irrepressible sense of form.

In Italy, you won't see many train spotters. They'll be too busy admiring the Fiat Coupe.



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'If developers move in the birds will stop singing and the spirit and soul of my home will fly away'

Builders repelled from vale where Laurie Lee drank cider with Rosie



Laurie Lee: "My last stand"

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE author Laurie Lee has won the first round of a fight to stop a housing development in the damp, green Cotswold valley where he drank *Cider With Rosie*.

Mr Lee describes the campaign to thwart plans to build 90 houses on nine acres of Slad Valley, near Stroud, as "my last stand". The valley, immortalised in Mr Lee's book, has lain undisturbed since Roman times.

Four Oaks Developments, whose application was unanimously rejected by Stroud district council planners, is expected to appeal to the Environment Department.

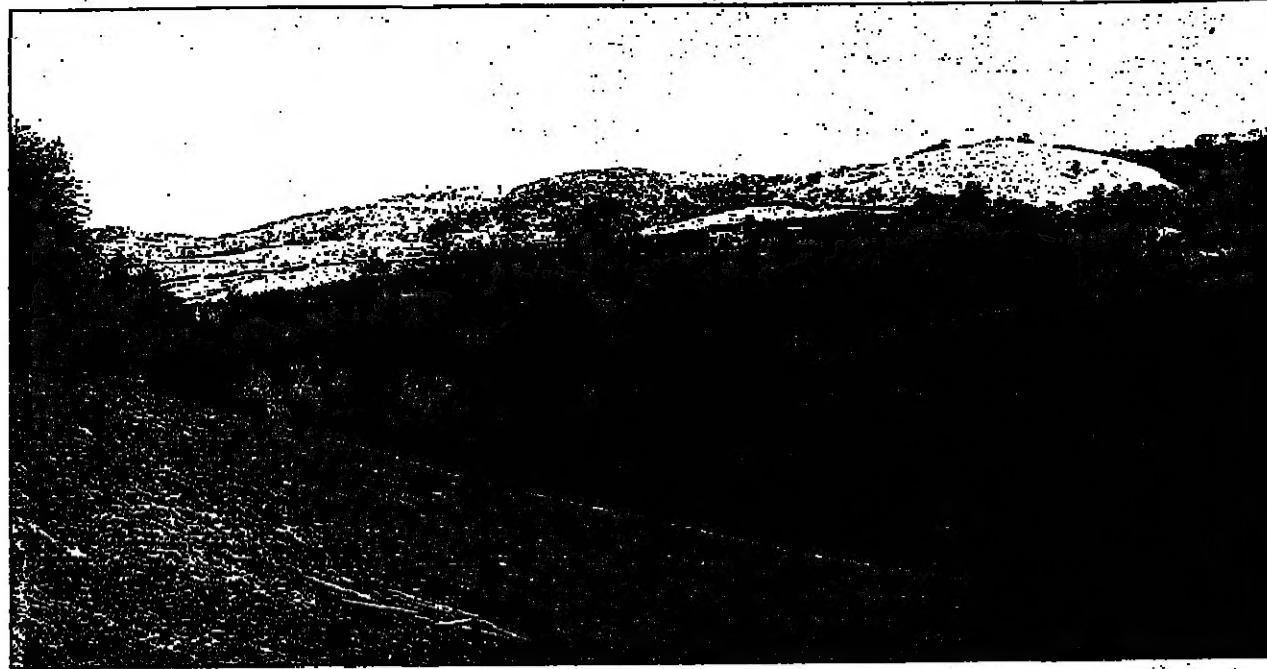
"The mile-wide valley is so unspoilt that Mr Lee says "the sound of sheep and human voices can clearly be heard from one side to the other". The 80-year-old writer and poet said yesterday: "They should leave the valley to

rabbits, badgers, orchids and old codgers like me. This was Rosie's playground. It was her seducing ground. Rosie would be heartbroken. We have to stop this madness."

"In my garden, when the sun is shining, I can see badgers, rabbits and wild orchids. None of us want to see houses take their place. It has not been changed for a thousand years. I rather hoped the valley would outlast me."

In 1972 local people fought off a similar planning application and the area has been undisturbed by the threat of development until now. The latest scheme was earmarked for land 300 yards from an area of outstanding natural beauty.

During the planning meeting councillors were presented with a 10 ft sq protest letter signed by nearly 1,000 locals,



A view of the Slad valley, Gloucestershire, undisturbed since Roman times and immortalised in Laurie Lee's book

whose protest Mr Lee has symbolised. The committee rejected the application because it would set a precedent for other developments and create an "alien highway design".

Mr Lee's literary arguments have not always been so persuasive against development. In 1989 he wrote a short poem to try to save 12 trees from being cut down to make way for a supermarket on the

edge of Stroud. The store was built within months.

Mr Lee was brought up in a cottage near Slad village in a family of eight children with an absentee father and went to the village school. He wrote the semi-autobiographical *Cider with Rosie* in 1959. It has sold millions of copies, is a school text and has indelibly linked his name with the Cotswold landscape.

Rosie's identity is a secret that Mr Lee will take to his grave. "There were many girls in my village in my youth. Many girls think they are Rosie. But only she knows and I know. And that is the way it will remain."

The writer lived on the Continent for many years with his wife Cathy but pined for Slad. They returned 30 years ago and live in a Cotswold-stone cottage from which he can see fields and hedgerows

planted a thousand years ago. Beyond the garden is a honey-coloured stone farmhouse with 1521 carved in the wall. To the right is a 16th-century house with perfectly preserved Elizabethan windows.

Mr Lee said: "The valley is alive with blossom and birdsong. But when the developers move in the birds will stop singing and the spirit and soul of my home will fly away."

Gummer 'reneged on duty to dales'

BY NICK NUTTALL

CONSERVATIONISTS last night accused John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, of reneging on the Government's commitment to Britain's national parks after he waved through a quarrying proposal in the Yorkshire Dales.

Yesterday Mr Gummer decided against ordering a public inquiry into plans to deepen Swindon limestone quarry near Cracoe in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and extend its operating life into the next century.

Chris Bonington, the mountaineer and president of the Council for National Parks, said: "This has disastrous implications. It has put national park protection on the line."

Peter Watson, principal planning officer at the park, said the quarry offered jobs in an area where there were few outside agriculture.

Prince William's place at Eton delights parents

BY ALAN HAMILTON



Prince William: exam pass

PRINCE WILLIAM is to attend Eton College in September after passing his Common Entrance examination. The Prince, 13 next week, will be the first future monarch to be educated in such a relatively open environment.

The Prince, who is on half-term holiday with his mother at Kensington Palace, learnt of his success yesterday morning in a telephone call from Gerald Barber, headmaster of his preparatory school at Ludgrove, Berkshire. St James's Palace said the young prince and his parents, the Prince and Princess of Wales, were very pleased.

The privilege of an Eton education will cost his parents £4,128 a term. The Prince will join 30 other boys aged 13 to 18 in Manor House under the care of Dr Andrew Gailey, its housemaster. Like other boys he will have his own room and will wear the traditional uniform of black tail coat, adopted by the school in 1820 as mourning dress on the death of King George III, one of Eton's greatest benefactors, and worn ever since.

Prince William will be an Oppidan - literally a boy who lives in the town, but in fact one who is not on a scholarship.

The Prince and Princess of Wales decided some time ago that they wanted both their

sons to attend Eton because of its proximity to home as well as its reputation for academic, artistic and sporting excellence. Prince William's father ruled out his own *alma mater*, Gordonstoun; Prince Charles is said not to have enjoyed his style of education, as bracing as its location near the Moray Firth.

Ensuring Prince William's security and privacy will prove hard at a school set in the middle of a town that is a tourist hotspot. However, school sources point out that the college has safely educated many a foreign potentate at far more risk from terrorists than Prince William will ever be. School staff are skilled at keeping curious tourists and newsmen away from pupils.

COMMON ENTRANCE EXAM

THESE are some of the questions Prince William had to answer in the Common Entrance Exam set to select pupils for all public schools.

French Oral: You have just arrived at your French friend's house for a three-week holiday. The role of your friend will be played by the examiner. You must:

1. Ask if your bedroom is on the first floor. 2. Say that his/her house is very beautiful. Geography: 1. Explain the difference between weather and erosion. 2. Name two ways in which a river may transport its load and explain how one of these methods works.

Chemistry: The paper shows an illustration of the revolutionary bicycle with which Chris Boardman won a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. 1. What materials were used to construct the bicycle and why? 2. Aluminium has many other useful properties. Give one use which depends on: high electrical conductivity; reflection of light; easy conversion into thin sheets.

Physics: The paper shows an illustration of an early steam engine. 1. What fuel may have been used to power the engine, and what energy changes took place to allow it to move? 2. If the engine has a mass of 15,000kg, and gravity exerts a force of 10 Newtons on it, how much downward force did the engine exert on the rails?

Biology: The paper shows drawings of a cell from a plant leaf and one from the human nervous system. 1. Label the parts of the plant cell which carry out photosynthesis; regulate the entry of substances; control the plant's activities. 2. Describe the function of the nerve cell; suggest one way in which it is adapted to carry out its function.

Maths: 1. The Roman foot measured 295.5mm; the Roman mile measured 1,480m. How many Roman feet were there in the Roman mile? 2. $x = 0.4$, $y = -0.02$, $z = 5.6$. Find the values of (i) x^2 , (ii) $1-x^2+y^2$ squared. Religious education: 1. Retell the occasion on Mt Carmel when Elijah made the people choose between Baal and the God of Israel. 2. God showed his presence dramatically on Mt Carmel. How might He reveal Himself today?

History: The paper contains an extract of a memorial record from 1086. 1. Briefly explain "geld" and "demesne". 2. Why did King William want to know the value in King Edward's time?

Latin and Greek: Translations and comprehensions. English: 1. The paper shows a picture which pupils are asked to use as a starting point for a composition. 2. The paper shows a newspaper article, which candidates must summarise and analyse.

The Independent Schools Examination Board sets the exam but papers are marked by the schools applied to.

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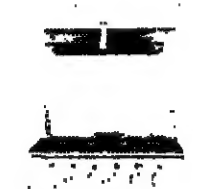
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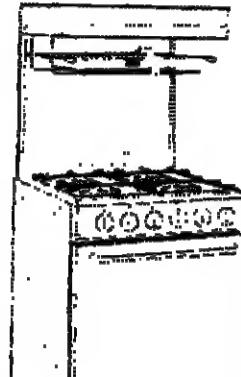
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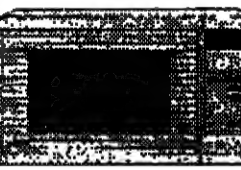
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THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 15 1995

Applicants to medical school 'too immature'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

TOO many students are taking up medicine for the wrong reasons, according to British medical schools, which are to consider delaying entry for all applicants by three years because of growing concern that many of them are too immature.

A meeting of medical school deans later this year is to discuss restricting entry to postgraduates, as happens in Canada and the US.

Next week senior doctors at St George's Hospital medical school in Tooting, south London, are to discuss introducing a compulsory "gap" year for applicants, delaying their entry to 19, during which they would be expected to gain experience helping others.

Sir William Asscher, principal of St George's medical school, said yesterday that many applicants were attracted by the glamour and job security and had little empathy with patients. A large number of students were over-qualified and would be better off pursuing academic careers, while others, especially those from ethnic minorities, were under pressure from their parents to apply but lacked a real commitment to doctoring.

"We are in the process of considering how we can ensure the students we get at St

George's are more mature. We are thinking of introducing a gap year to sift out those students who don't appreciate what medicine is about," Sir William said.

The deans are to discuss a paper written by Professor Cyril Chantler, principal of the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals, on limiting entry to postgraduates. However, the costs to the individual and the country would be high, Sir William said.

For its 150 places, St George's receives 2,500 applicants, many with the highest academic qualifications and sporting and musical achievements. Sir William said: "It is not necessary to be at the top of the tree to be a good doctor and some who are at the top of the tree academically are frustrated by medicine."

"When I interview an applicant I try to imagine that person ten years older. A doctor has to be able to understand what other people feel. We look for students who can listen, who can relate to people. Some people have it and some don't."

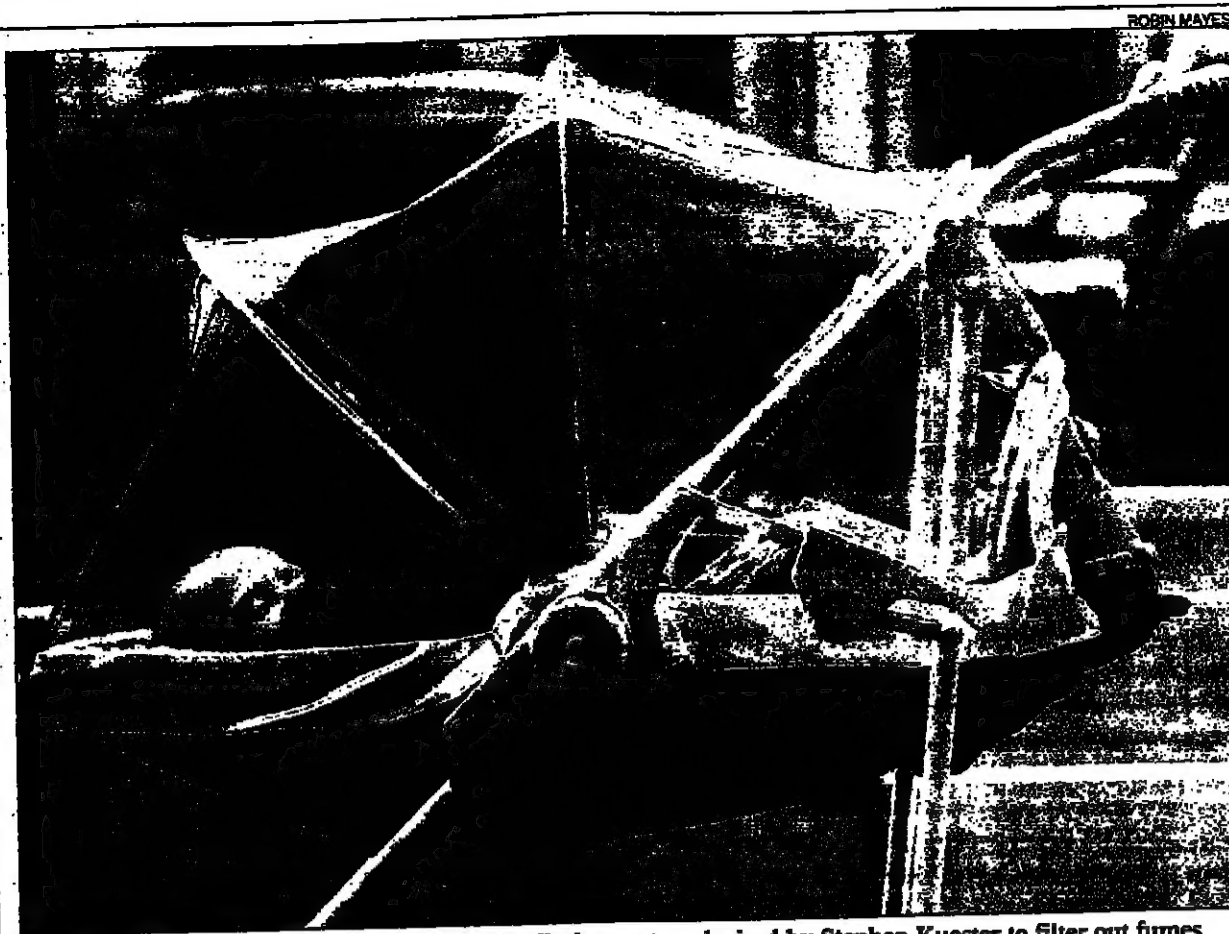
The Health Department yesterday published guidance for medical students on planning their careers in response to fears about the number leaving medicine and the shortage of women in senior consultancy posts.

Baroness Cumberlege, junior Health Minister, said that more flexible training and more positive attitudes to women doctors who wanted to work part-time were required. "Many young doctors enter a medical career with very little idea of what it takes to succeed, and sometimes the advice given can be discouraging or even misleading," she said.

Professor Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer, said: "It is very easy to switch bright enthusiastic people off."



Asscher: talk of gap year



James Miller, ten months, tests the anti-pollution system devised by Stephen Kuester to filter out fumes

Inventor cleans the air babies breathe

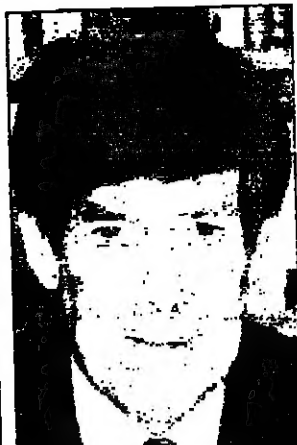
BY NICK NUTTALL

A DEVICE that may protect babies in push-chairs from the worst effects of car fumes has been devised by a British designer.

The invention, which fits on to a standard buggy, filters out the pollution that has been linked with asthma attacks and other breathing difficulties.

It is the brainchild of Stephen Kuester, 27, a student at the Royal College of Arts and a former aerospace engineer.

The device consists of a battery-powered filter which takes out airborne chemicals such as ozone, dust and pollen while the baby sits under the buggy canopy. It will sell for £150 but could become cheaper, Mr Kuester said.



Broers: chosen from 60

Engineer takes top university post

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

AN ENGINEER who switched to an academic career only ten years ago yesterday captured what many consider the foremost post in higher education. Professor Alec Broers, the Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, will become the university's vice-chancellor in October next year.

A decade ago Professor Broers accepted a fifth of the salary that he earned running an IBM laboratory in the United States to return to his alma mater. "It was a wild midlife change. I could not resist the challenge when the chair of my old department came up."

Since then he has taken over as head of the university's top-rated engineering department and secured £1.75 million for his college from the National Lottery's purchase of Sir Winston Churchill's private papers. Professor Broers was chosen as vice-chancellor from 60 candidates in a worldwide selection process lasting four months.

A married man with two adult sons, the 56-year-old Professor of Electrical Engineering was brought up in Australia. His association with Cambridge began at the age of 21 when he was admitted to Gonville and Caius College as a choral scholar, but he has given up singing.

Professor Broers will succeed Sir David Williams, Cambridge's first full-time vice-chancellor.

Second Degree, pages 38-41

Telescope pictures suggest at least 200 million bodies orbiting the Sun

Hubble identifies cradle of the comets

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Hubble space telescope has identified the birthplace of the comets on the icy fringes of the solar system. Images taken by the telescope suggest that there are at least 200 million comets, ranging in size from ten to 500 kilometres across, orbiting the Sun in a belt that lies beyond the orbit of Neptune and engulfs that of Pluto.

Ground-based telescopes have already identified about 25 of the larger objects but the Hubble pictures, reported yesterday at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Pittsburgh, confirm predictions that there are huge numbers of them.

The existence of the belt was first predicted more than 40 years ago by the astronomer Gerard Kuiper. The belt, which lies in the same plane as the planets, is believed to have remained virtually unchanged since the birth of the solar system 4.5 billion years ago.

Some astronomers believe that the outermost planet,

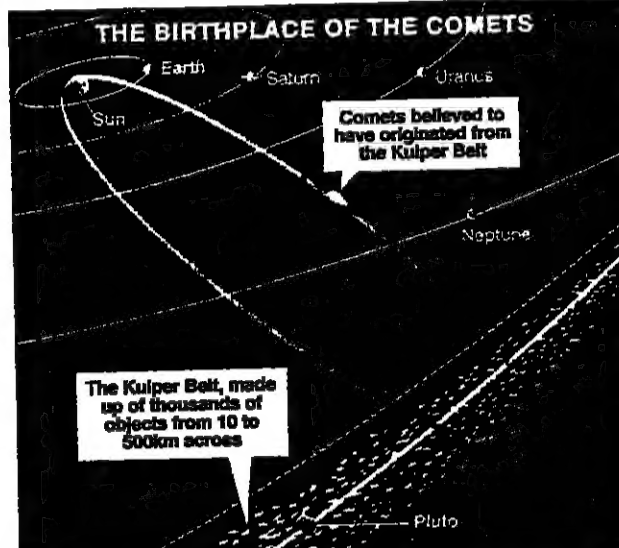
Pluto, is the largest member of the Kuiper Belt. But the objects it contains range down in size to those as small as Halley's comet, which is about ten kilometres across.

Objects from the belt are believed to form the short-period comets, those that orbit the Sun once every 200 years or less. Comets that make a single visit, never to be seen again, originate from a much more distant source, the Oort Cloud.

The comets in the Kuiper Belt are so small and so far away that it has taken the Hubble telescope's high resolution and sensitivity to detect them.

"Imagine trying to see something the size of a mountain, draped in black velvet, located four billion miles away," said Dr Alan Stern of Southwest Research Institute, a member of the team that reported the finding yesterday.

The team used the Hubble's wide-field camera and pointed it at a region of the sky in



the constellation Taurus. The result was an image showing many dots, most of them so faint as to be barely distinguishable.

The group took 34 ten-minute exposures of the same tiny section of the sky and compared them, using a computer program. In this way,

the scientists hoped to remove random images caused by cosmic rays striking the Hubble's electronic detectors and to be left only with the traces of smoothly moving objects. Then they confirmed that the objects moved in orbits similar to that of Pluto and other large bodies in the belt.

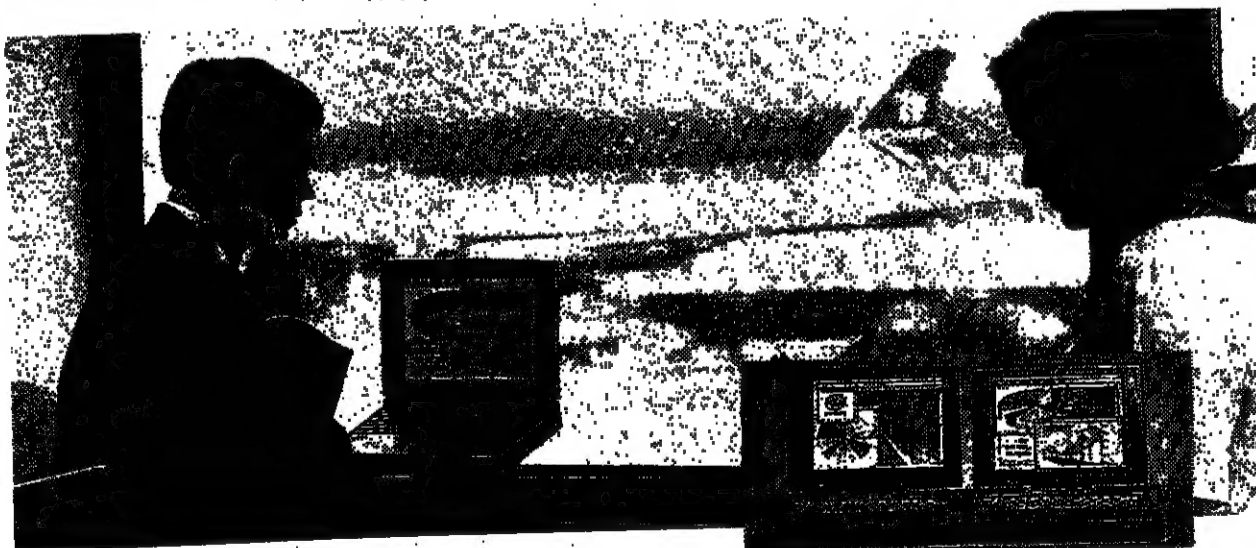
From this analysis they found about 30 objects which were considered to be comets and, by extrapolating from the tiny area they had studied to the entire belt, estimate a total population of 200 million.

"For the first time, we have a direct handle on the population of comets in this outer region," Dr Anita Cochran, another member of the team, of the University of Texas, said.

"We now know where these short-period comets formed, and knowing where they come from will help in modelling the formation of the solar system."

The comets originally condensed from the cloud of dust, gas and ice that collapsed to form the Sun and planets. "The Kuiper Belt is the best laboratory in the solar system for studying how planets formed," Dr Hal Levinson, a member of the team, said.

He added: "We believe we are seeing a region of the solar system where the accumulation of planets fizzled out."



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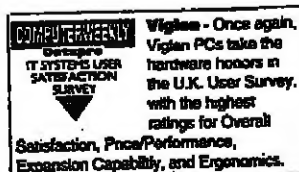
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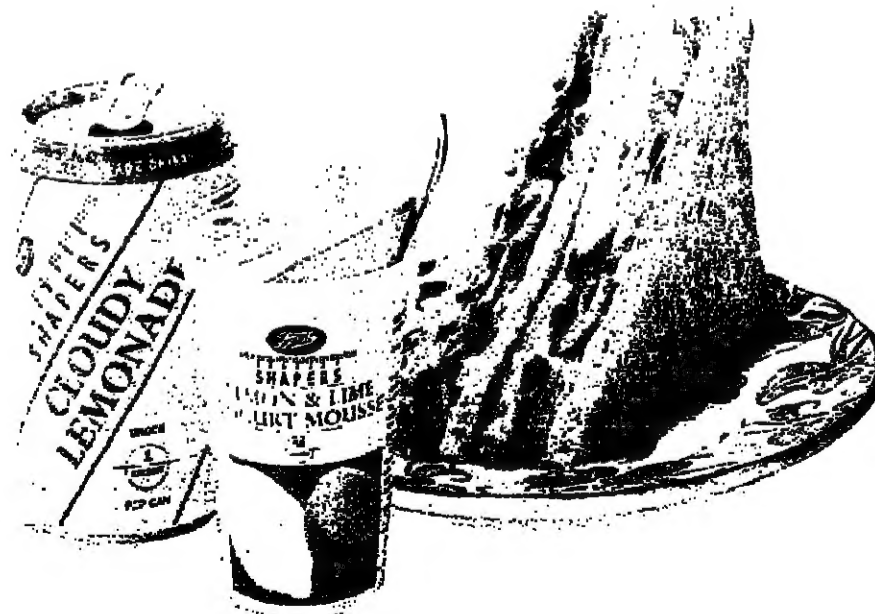
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مكتبة القرآن

Marquess takes share as fund pays £4m to save ancestral seat

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

HOPETOUN HOUSE, the ancestral home of the Marquess of Linlithgow, is to receive £4 million from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to ensure its survival.

Some of the grant will go directly to the 4th marquess, Adrian John Charles Hope, and his family, who are selling most of the contents to the Hopetoun House Preservation Trust, established in 1974 by the 3rd marquess.

Robert Dufon, head of the memorial fund, refused to say how much money would go

directly to the marquess. He said: "The public money is going to a charity and part of that is going to a private individual. Some of the best parts of Britain's heritage belong to families which may be asset-rich but are not able to easily realise it." The grant is more than a third of the fund's annual income.

Mr Dufon denied that the confidentiality arose from the outcry over the lottery money received by Winston Churchill for his grandfather's papers.

Mr Dufon said that the

marquess is gifting part of the contents to the trust. He pointed out that the marquess's father gifted the house and grounds, 12 miles from Edinburgh, to the preservation trust in 1974.

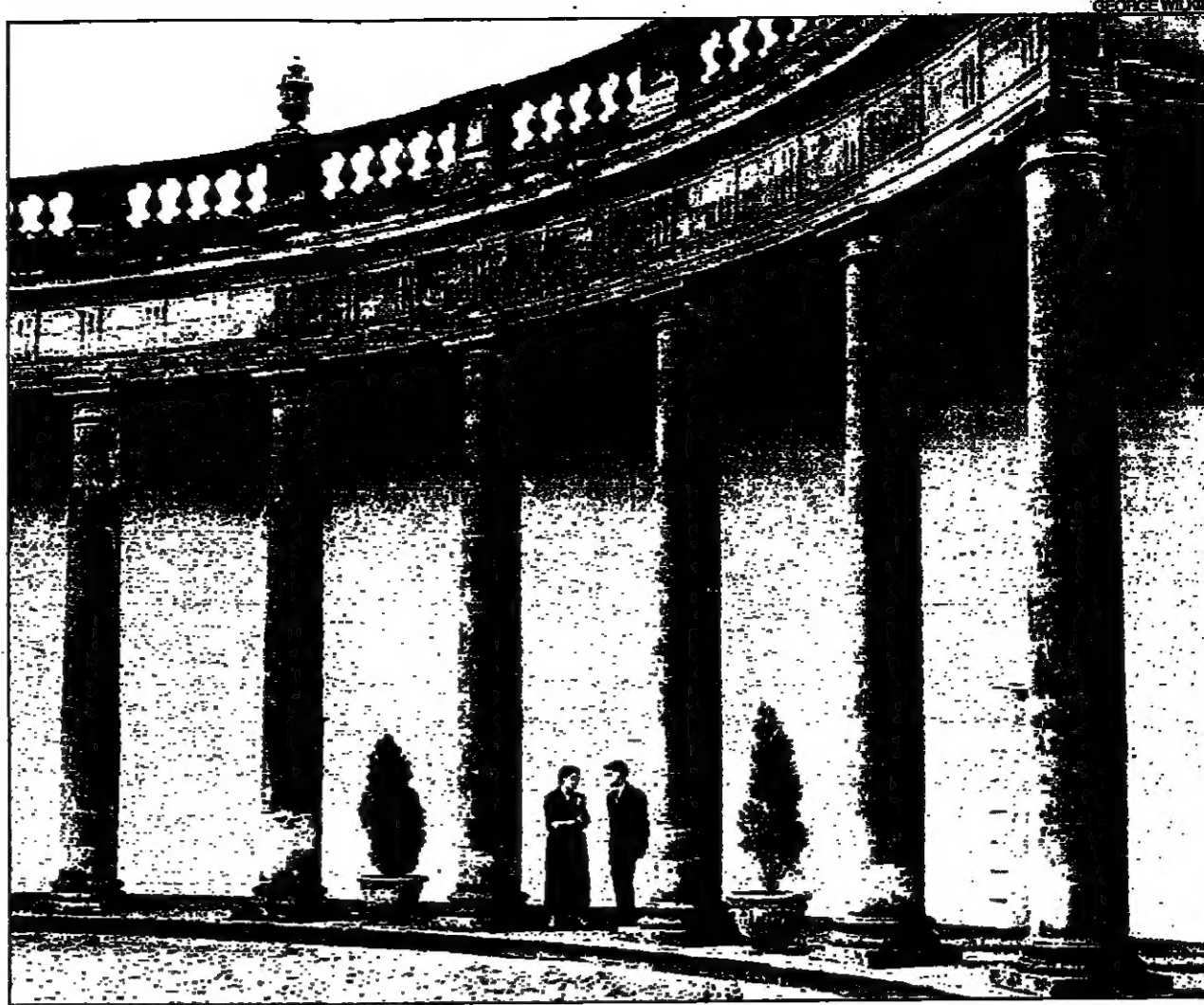
The Hope family live in a wing of the house, for which they pay a commercial rent. They will, in effect, be tenants, although the marquess remains a trustee.

Dr Diana Henderson, chairman of the Hopetoun trustees, said that without the money the future of the house was in doubt. She said more than 50,000 visitors annually came to Hopetoun, "the Versailles of Edinburgh", which was built around 1700.

The roof needed re-reading and facilities had to be improved to attract more visitors. Dr Henderson said: "We have an endowment of £400,000 a year and in 1995 that simply is not enough."



Hopetoun House, the "Versailles of Edinburgh"



Trustees say that present funds are inadequate to maintain the splendours of the house, built around 1700

Schoolboy angler raped at knifepoint

A 13-year-old boy was beaten and raped at knifepoint as he sat alone on a river bank during an after-school fishing trip.

He was recovering in hospital yesterday after being kicked and punched about the head in the attack at Haworth, West Yorkshire, on Tuesday. Stuart Todd, 25, who works in a shop near by, said one of his customers found the boy hiding in bushes. "He was a mess, blood was pouring down his face and he was in shock." The boy said that his attacker had held the knife to his throat and was trying to kill him.

Police were interviewing a 46-year-old Bradford man yesterday.

Complaints report

The Department of Social Security and Inland Revenue account for over half the complaints upheld by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in his latest report. William Reid, who blamed administrative shortcomings, ordered compensation in several cases. There were 85 investigations between November 1994 and February involving 14 departments.

Clean waters

Ireland is the cleanest place in Europe for a seaside holiday, according to a European Union report. It passes all EU tests monitoring the quality of bathing water. The other results were Spain 96.1%, Denmark 95.1%, Greece 94.9%, Belgium 92.3%, France 90.3%, Italy 86.7%, Portugal 83.2%, UK 82.3%, Germany 80.2% and Holland 65.5%.

Luck of the draw

Mark Gardner, who shared a £22.1 million lottery win, has had his flat at St Leonards, East Sussex, ransacked and a video recorder stolen. Meanwhile Darren Vowell, 23, who won £25,000 on an Instant scratchcard, has been jailed for four weeks by Blackpool magistrates. He was arrested for driving while disqualified in his new Mercedes.

Porsche victims

Police have named the car salesman and customer who died when their Porsche hit another car, killing the driver, 22-year-old Karen Dalley, near the village of Llysney, Dyfed, on Sunday. Gavin Shaw, 30, of Cerpilly, died demonstrating the 911 Carrera to Derek Redfern, 57, a businessman from Kingsbridge, South Devon. Both cars burst into flames.

Murder denied

Gordon Wardell denied not guilty yesterday to the murder of his wife Carol, a building society assistant manager, last September. Mr Wardell, 41, of Meriden, West Midlands, also pleaded not guilty to Birmingham Crown Court to burglary at the Woodhatch Building Society branch in Nuneaton and to stealing £14,127 and a number of cheque books.

Country living

Eight "time warp" cottages will be auctioned tomorrow. They were built for workers on the 2,000-acre Knowlton Court Estate, near Sandwich, Kent, at the turn of the century and will remain protected by agricultural land. The cottages, which have from one to four bedrooms and were let as holiday homes, are expected to fetch from £40,000 to £110,000.

Sue Cook escapes a life of crime

By Emma Wilkins

SUE COOK, who presents her final *Crimewatch UK* programme tonight, is leaving the show because she fears that she has become desensitised to serious crime. "We always tell people that serious crime is rare and not the most important thing in people's lives, but during the past 11 years it has become fairly central to my life," Ms Cook said.

"Reporting on truly awful crimes is fairly grim and a bit unrelenting at times. I was just beginning to feel a bit desensitised which worried me because these are horrible crimes. I want to care as much as I ever did at the beginning," she said.

Ms Cook, 46, who has covered 1,330 cases leading to 401 arrests and 268 convictions during her 11 years as co-presenter with Nick Ross, has missed only one episode — to give birth to her daughter, Megan, now aged seven.

"I will miss the programme

terribly and I do feel a bit of a traitor to Nick and the viewers by leaving," she said. "I just felt that 11 years was a long time to do one thing and I ought to have a change, but as the leaving date gets closer, I am feeling twinges of 'have I done the right thing?'"

While she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, daughter and son Charlie, 12, Ms Cook is not giving up her television work. She will continue with broadcasts for *The Holiday Programme* and *Children in Need*, and is working on her own television series and book.

Cook: leaving after 11 years

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Business must stop 'rewarding failure'

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR urged the Greenbury committee on executive pay yesterday to reject the practice by companies of rewarding failure by means of large severance payments.

In a submission to the committee, which reports next month, Labour suggested that it examine US-style incentive packages that penalise executives for poor performance.

Jack Cunningham, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, told an industry forum in London: "There is no compelling reason why executives should be offered a one-way bet whereby outstanding performance is rewarded but mediocrity is tolerated. There should be no hiding place for mediocrity in the boardrooms of British industry."

He criticised the rewarding of directors for failure by handing them "golden parachutes". He said he had called on Sir Richard Greenbury's committee to restrict rolling contracts for directors to one year, and ensure that severance pay was stipulated in published contracts. "Under such arrangements, large financial severance packages would be unnecessary."

He also suggested phasing some severance payments and discontinuing them if a former executive found a new job. Also, executives' share options should have to be cancelled or exercised on leaving the company.

Earlier Tony Blair, the Labour leader, continued his campaign to woo business leaders by outlining measures to boost performance and encourage competitiveness within industry. Labour would abolish the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading and replace them with a new Competition and Standards Office, he said.

The new body would be charged with rooting out anti-competitive practices such as price-fixing and rigged tenders and combating abuse of monopoly power. Labour would also work with industry to improve training at work.

Major risks making new enemies over Europe

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

MOST Tory MPs back John Major's refusal to commit himself now over a European single currency, according to a new survey of backbench opinion.

The survey, details of which were passed to the Prime Minister shortly before his ill-tempered encounter with about 60 Euro-sceptic MPs on Tuesday, was carried out by the backbench Conservative European Affairs Committee. It bolstered Mr Major in his determination to resist sceptic demands that he rule out economic and monetary union (EMU) in the lifetime of the next Parliament.

The committee, chaired by Sir Peter Hordern, took evidence from about 60 MPs representing half a dozen pro and anti-European groups. It found that well over half the parliamentary party was happy to keep the options on a single currency open until 1999. A smaller group wanted to rule it out, and there was even less support for outright endorsement of EMU.

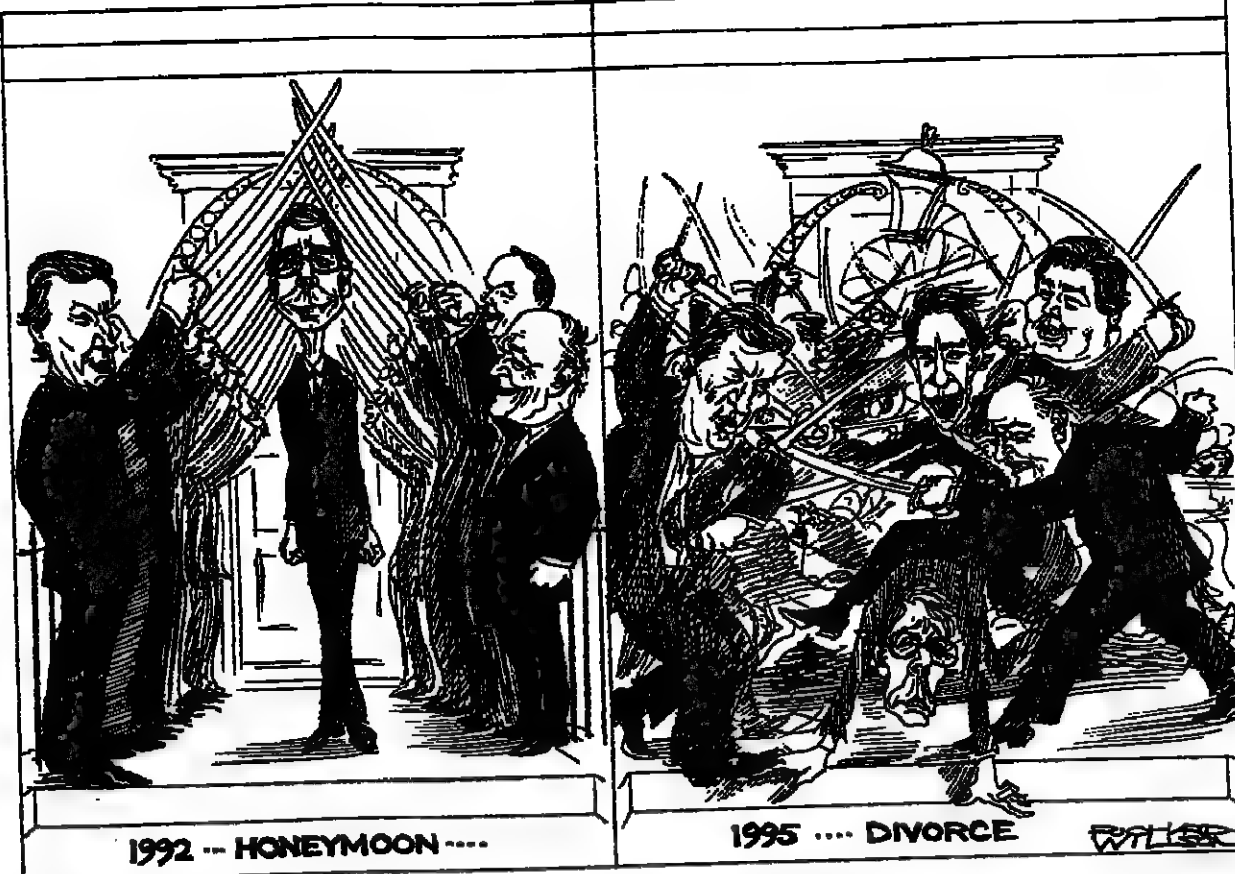
Although the figures will be

disputed by the Right as propaganda from the pro-European wing, they are a reminder that Mr Major risks making new enemies if he sides with the sceptics.

Pro-European MPs will drive home this message when they see Mr Major on June 29. They will urge him to keep his nerve over a single currency and not move the goalposts at next year's inter-governmental conference.

Many of the 100-strong Positive Europe group are furious that the sceptics appear to have hijacked the agenda on Europe. They fear that Mr Major is gradually shifting his ground in the direction of the Euro-sceptics to avoid a damaging row and ward off a leadership challenge.

As recriminations continued over Tuesday's meeting at the Commons, at which Mr Major was heckled by his backbenchers, Cabinet loyalists echoed the survey's findings, saying that if the Prime Minister bowed to the sceptics he would split his party and inflict further damage. "We



are in danger of becoming a sect, not a political party," one of Mr Major's ministerial supporters said.

Party grandees said they were appalled by the disrespect shown to Mr Major at the meeting, with the hardline Fresh Start group, and predicted that complaints about their discourtesy would be raised at today's meeting of the 1922 Committee's executive.

Those present at the meeting said the mood soured in the last 30 minutes when three

leading figures — Sir Ivan Lawrence, John Townend and Sir Nicholas Bonsor —

clashed with Mr Major. They pointed to the opinion polls, which show Labour 40 points ahead, and said that his hesitating approach to critical European questions had failed.

To his claim that the public were not greatly exercised about a single currency, they retorted that it was his job to dramatise the issue and so open Labour's pro-European stance to attack. According to

one account, the last 30 minutes of the 90-minute meeting were a "shambles" with several MPs speaking at once.

Last night disaffected sceptics said that Tuesday's hostility showed that a leadership challenge in the autumn was virtually certain. A leading backbencher said: "It has heightened the chances of a challenge considerably because he failed to see the way the country is going or respond to the mood of the meeting. It was a bridge-building opportunity and he

went down a cul de sac." Ministers loyal to Mr Major said the sceptics would be foolish to support a challenge and risk handing the leadership to Michael Heseltine, one of the most pro-European members of the Cabinet. But some pro-European say that Mr Major will provoke a challenge by failing to appease either side. One said: "People are becoming disaffected and that means more will abstain if there is a challenge."

Letters, page 19

Inquiry to examine electoral fraud

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

AN INQUIRY into election rules and the work of the Boundary Commission is to be set up this summer, the Government announced yesterday.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, told the Commons that the review would be a "major exercise" in which the Government would consult a wide range of people about the electoral process.

Home Office officials said the review's remit was not yet decided but it would look closely at how people get onto the electoral register and alleged misuses of proxy votes. "We need to make sure there is no room for electoral fraud," one said.

Mr Howard said the main point of concern about the Boundary Commission's work was the "ratchet effect" under which the number of MPs in the Commons increases each time the seats are redrawn. Under the commission's latest proposals to redraw the electoral map in England, which were agreed by MPs yesterday, five extra English MPs will sit in the Commons. With two new Welsh MPs and one in Northern Ireland, the total number of MPs will rise from 651 to 659.

The draft Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order 1995 was accepted by all sides of the House. The House of Lords is expected to approve the changes after a debate on Monday.

According to the latest predictions, the Tories will pick up seven extra seats and Labour two. The Liberal Democrats are expected to lose two seats.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: Backbench debates and trade and industry questions were followed by a debate on Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order. In the Lords: Debates on Information Society, Aviation, Education in the EU, Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill, Geneva Convention (Amendment) Bill, and Housing. TODAY in the Commons: Questions to Treasury Ministers and Tony Blair, the Leader of the Commons, standing in for the Prime Minister. Debate on the Council Tax Limitation (England) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, in the Lords: Debates on the Prisoners (Return to Custody) Bill, Caravan (Provision and Services) Bill, Insurance Companies (Reserve) Bill, Health (Disability Discrimination) Bill, and Health (Emergency and Prevention of Terrorism) (Provisions) (Continuance) Order.

Slim chance of Clarke succumbing to temptation

The financial markets may now accept that Kenneth Clarke is an ally, not a potential rival, about to return to a life of monetary excess. In his Mansion House speech last night, Mr Clarke promised to maintain a tight inflation target and, in an appropriate fit-for-inflation invocation of Baroness Thatcher, said that he was "not for turning".

The markets are, however, in danger of missing the wood for the trees, as Mr Clarke said. They are focusing on the details and forgetting the larger threats to the Government's anti-inflation policy.

The jitteriness of the City is understandable. Despite the big reduction in the underlying rate of inflation, the historical record is poor, particularly before elections. The Government has not yet been given the benefit of the doubt. Hence, the obsessive attention being paid by

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

market analysts to the published minutes of the monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor and to changes to the published inflation target.

The markets were apprehensive about Mr Clarke's decision six weeks ago to overrule the Governor's advice to raise interest rates. The Chancellor's judgment has so far been supported by evidence of economic slowdown. Market movements and further statistics will show whether his view has to be revised. At present, there is still the fear that any hint of a relaxation, imagined or real, will be the start of an inflationary binge.

But eating one chocolate cake does not mean that a slimming campaign has been abandoned — even though

Mr Clarke is an unlikely slimmer.

The real threat to low inflation comes not from tactical differences between the Chancellor and the Governor, but from the growing political pressures for a much bigger departure from financial caution. The siren voices can already be heard on the Tory back benches, and in popular press columns: it is worth risking a little more inflation if it improves electoral prospects.

This argument has been posed by Robert Walker, now European research director for Richard Wirgin, and formerly with Harris Pollsters, which has worked for the Tories. In an interview for *New Times*, he argues that financial prudence must be balanced against political advantage. The Government, he notes, may have leeway to cut taxes in the two pre-election budgets, but they must also be ready to allow higher inflation.

from the present two or three per cent to "five, six or even seven per cent", while keeping interest rates low. He is quoted as saying: "This might not be the most sound and healthy long-term thing to do, but it might get the housing market moving."

This argument is both pernicious economically and self-defeating politically. Any substantial relaxation would produce an immediate counter-reaction. The Bank of England would warn about the risks of higher inflation. And this would probably be coupled with a collapse in market confidence, so interest rates would have to be increased to a higher level than before. Governments have lost much of their past freedom to be irresponsible.

A more likely threat is from a discreet relaxation, via a looser interpretation of the inflation target

and tax cuts. The pressures for such a change are likely to grow as the election approaches.

This danger is what worries the markets most. A new Tory leader might also replace Mr Clarke with a Chancellor more relaxed about inflation.

At present, Mr Clarke remains determined to reassert his low-inflation credentials. If Britain can achieve an underlying rate of 2½ per cent or less, it would be the best performance for over half a century. Getting inflation down to this level has been hard enough. Staying there will be even harder in view of the political pressures over the next two years. But squandering this success would destroy whatever claims the Government has to a fifth term.

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Chechen gunmen kill scores in raid on Russian town

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

SUSPECTED Chechen commandos launched a bloody raid deep inside Russia yesterday, when they attacked a small industrial town north of Chechnya, taking hostages, shooting policemen and leaving scores of dead and wounded.

In a move which could signal a new and dangerous phase in the six-month conflict in the breakaway republic, about 80 men armed with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades stormed the town of Budennovsk in a well-planned midday operation.

One report said that the gunmen, travelling in two military lorries with a small military vehicle escort, had succeeded in passing through numerous Russian military roadblocks by posing as a convoy carrying dead Russian troops back from the front — a cargo sentries rarely inspect.

The guerrillas first cut off all communications in Budennovsk. Then they attacked the local government building, the police and security headquarters and a bank, triggering several hours of heavy street fighting which left scores of civilians, policemen and some of the gunmen dead.

Officials said that among those killed were the town's police chief and eight officers. Eight of the gunmen were captured; two were identified as Chechens.

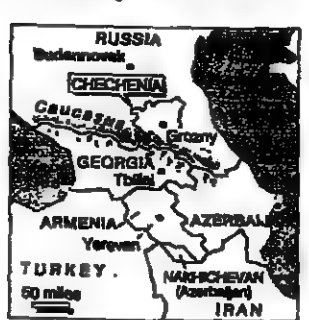
The gunmen then fled from the town behind a human shield of 40 civilians, warning the authorities that they would start to kill the hostages if they were followed.

It is not known if the gunmen identified themselves

or made any demands. One report suggested that they had wanted to blow up a chemical plant in an attempt to contaminate a wide area with toxic gas.

Another report said that they carried out the raid as a warning to the Russians to halt their campaign in breakaway Chechnya or face similar attacks elsewhere in Russia.

President Yeltsin denounced the raid and sent Viktor Yerin, the Interior Minister, to the town, which last night resembled a battlefield as bodies were removed from the streets and heavily armed reinforcements



ments continued to pour in from Stavropol, the regional capital.

Many Russians are fearful that Chechen rebels may have embarked on a long-awaited campaign to take their war into the Russian heartland.

Since Russian forces launched their bloody offensive against the breakaway republic six months ago, Russian intelligence officials have said that the Chechen leadership might resort to attacks against soft targets in Russia's cities.

At first the Chechen separatists, who enjoyed widespread sympathy both in Russia and abroad for their stubborn resistance to the Russian onslaught, deliberately restricted their operations to the battlefield. However, now that General Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader, has been driven out of his last mountain strongholds in southern Chechnya it is believed that he, or some of his supporters, may have decided to change tactics.

Before news of yesterday's raid emerged, the separatist leader was quoted as saying "the fight is not over", giving a warning that it was only "taking on new forms".

Earlier in the week he had hinted that the Chechens, who increasingly feel their cause has been forgotten by the international community, would seek revenge against the Russians, saying: "The next step is that Russia is to burn in hell."

General Lebed, an outspoken and popular soldier tipped by many as a likely candidate for next year's presidential elections.

The move was regarded as a risky tactic by Mr Yeltsin, who may have released one of his most dangerous political opponents from his duties and handed him the chance to begin a presidential campaign for next year's polls.

General Lebed, a large, tough-talking paratrooper, tendered his resignation after the army announced that his force was being reduced.



Moscovites, waiting in a heatwave, take to the murky waters of a Moscow pond to stay cool, undeterred by a "No Swimming" sign erected after health officials found cholera bacteria in the Moskva river. The city has en-

Moscow feels the heat

joyed a heatwave for three weeks, the longest in more than two decades, with temperatures higher than 30C. The city health department

said 82 people had drowned between May 12 and June 8. "People shouldn't go swimming when they're drunk." A heatwave that began last

Friday has made Finland one of Western Europe's hottest countries — and it looked set to get hotter yet yesterday, with forecasts predicting more balmy weather to follow yesterday's temperature of 25C.

Austria begins to regret joining EU

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

AUSTRIA, one year after its close-fought referendum on entry to the European Union, appears to be having second thoughts about the merits of membership. Latest opinion polls show that barely 40 per cent of Austrians now believe that seeking membership was a good move.

Opposition to the union has grown in particular in areas along the 220-mile border with Slovenia and Hungary. Crossing from the Burgenland region into Hungary used to be a brisk and profitable experience. Now, following the implementation of the Schengen accords, it involves a nine-hour border wait. Accord-

ing to European critics such as Jörg Haider, the Freedom Party leader who has been exploiting the popular mood, inflation has increased, unemployment has risen, the petrol tax has been raised, and painful budget cuts have reduced the quality of life since Austria became a full member of the European Union on January 1.

"We warned about the cross-border crime, the wave of refugees and the abolition of the schilling," said Herr Haider in a speech marking the first anniversary of the EU referendum.

Wolfgang Schüssel, the Foreign Minister, who argues for a deepening of European integration, claims that Herr

Haider is manipulating the statistics and playing up the crisis of confidence in Europe. The minister, who is also Vice-Chancellor of the governing coalition, argues that some 12,000 new jobs have been created as a result of European membership and industrial investment has risen by 9 per cent.

Last year's referendum was followed by a general election, long, dreary negotiations to find a government and reshuffles. The result was that the Government neglected the case for Europe. Now the dismal opinion polls have alarmed the politicians and the Government is trying to win over sceptical Austrians before they fall into the lap of Herr Haider.

Literary whodunnit teases US capital

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

WASHINGTON'S political salons have become engrossed in a new parlour game — guessing the identity of the anonymous author of a forthcoming novel which casts a hilarious light on President Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign. Rumour has it that the writer is one of Mr Clinton's closest confidants.

Although the political roman à clef has been bought by Random House for a six-figure sum, its author and even its title remain secret. But the detailed behind-the-scenes glimpse the book offers of the drama and absurdity of life on the campaign trail — and the author's insistence on anonymity — suggests it is the work of an insider, possibly in the White House.

"This book is so authentic it could have been written by Clinton himself," Harry Evans of Random House told *The New York Times*. Even Mr Evans, former editor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, says he will not be told the author's name until nearer publication next February.

The book will be published without even a pseudonym. "That would be deceitful. We don't want to deceive anybody. It will just say 'Anonymous'," Mr Evans said.

In order to protect the author's identity, the editing process will be conducted by post through a third party, probably Kathy Robbins, the New York agent who negotiated the deal.

James Carville, Mr Clinton's former campaign manager, is one name being touted as the author. Mr Carville married Mary Matalin, who worked on George Bush's campaign.

Shark attacks leave swimmers under siege in Hong Kong

BY ANJANA AHUJA

THREE fatal attacks in the past fortnight have prompted fears that a killer shark terrorising Hong Kong's shores could strike again. Explanations for the sharks' sudden taste for human flesh range from the effects of seawater pollution to simple mistaken identity — they may think swimmers are seals.

Witnesses' descriptions of Tuesday's attack in Clearwater Bay have increased fears. Far from being a long way offshore, the woman victim was standing in chest-high water and shouting for help with her hands raised above her head. Then she was pulled under by what was

probably a great white shark. Several fins were seen circling the same waters at the time of the attack. Could a pack of very large, very hungry sharks be stalking the bay?

"Yes, although most great whites are loners," said Paul Hale, who looks after sharks at the Sea Life Centre in Hastings, Sussex. "Sharks tend to congregate in the same feeding area and feed off the same prey."

Hong Kong has been gripped by shark hysteria before. Two swimmers were killed in 1993 in the same waters. However, worldwide, fatal attacks on humans number only about 30 a year.

The great white shark is the most aggressive, closely followed by the tiger and hammerhead species. An atlas of attacks shows that the coasts of Australia, California and South Africa are most hazardous. These are all areas where the shark's natural food is plentiful.

Bob Earl, a shark expert, said that to be attacked off a British beach would be rarer than winning the National Lottery.

Why should sharks come so close to shore? There may be an element of truth in the pollution theory. Fish are attracted to sewage-laden waters, according to Mr Hale, and sharks are therefore drawn to these areas. A drop in pollution levels causes the fish to stay away but the sharks still arrive.

Another plausible theory is that humans in the water resemble seals, the main diet of the great white. When viewed from underneath, surfers are particularly convincing imitations.

But perhaps the saddest scenario is that the predator is an ill animal, and therefore unable to catch moving prey. Mr Hale said a shark could easily mistake a motionless human for an injured seal.

What worries Mr Hale most is that the attacks will be followed by an indiscriminate shark-killing spree. Sonar-equipped boats have already started patrolling the waters around Clearwater Bay.

"Shark hunters often use 'chumming', or pouring blood and guts into the water, to try to catch sharks. The problem is that this will bring more sharks in than are probably involved in the attacks."

Swimmers, meanwhile, can take comfort from the fact they are not regarded as a tasty morsel. "Most times a shark will see a human but not take a fancy to them," said Mr Hale. "If they do, then the eyes and nose are the areas to go for. People have been known to escape by gouging the eyes out."

THE TIMES A holiday hideaway for life



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Britain sounds the alarm as Bosnia masses its troops

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN VITEZ AND STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

BRITAIN yesterday expressed concern over reports that 30,000 Bosnian army troops had been deployed just north of Sarajevo, and said it appeared "quite likely" that Bosnian forces were massing for "offensive action".

Amid indications that the Bosnian troops may be assembling to try to break the three-year siege of Sarajevo, Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, said Britain was concerned about the "cycle of yet increasing violence".

Thousands of troops have been mobilised in the front line from the towns of central Bosnia. The cafes and streets of Travnik, Vitez and Zenica are deserted as anyone old enough to wear a uniform heads for the area between Breza and Visoko, about 12 miles north of Sarajevo. "They are calling up everybody," said a Croat officer in Vitez.

The unprecedented build-up of forces could be used to seize a Serb-controlled road link north of Sarajevo — a limited objective — or open a corridor into Sarajevo itself. But any attempt by the Bosnians to fight through the Serb positions round Sarajevo would undermine the UN peacekeeping operation, already seriously jeopardised by the hostage crisis.

Some of the latest hostages to be released by the Bosnian Serbs, including six Britons, arrived in Zagreb yesterday; the six Britons later arrived at the British headquarters in

Split. Twenty-six of the original 400 hostages are still unaccounted for.

The Bosnian Government confirmed that troops had been mobilised but said the numbers were far fewer than the reported 30,000 and that their purpose was not to break the siege of Sarajevo. "If we had enough arms, I'd launch the liberation of Sarajevo now. We don't have enough. We could not spare 20,000 troops," Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic said.

Mr Ganic said the Bosnian troops were deployed as a defensive measure after the Serb seizure of dozens of heavy weapons and tanks from UN weapon collection points round Sarajevo almost three weeks ago. The UN estimates that the Bosnian Serbs may have taken 25 per cent of the 284 heavy weapons from UN weapons collection sites and that they were able to use many of the arms which remained there. "The Bosnian Serbs do not need to remove weapons to use them because a lot of the weapon collection sites are gun positions," a UN spokesman said.

The Serbs have been holding most of the peacekeepers manning the collection sites hostage, leaving a UN presence at only four of the nine sites. On Tuesday, the Serbs fired on Sarajevo from Ostijak, a weapon collection site west of Sarajevo which has a clear view of the airport.

UN sources said they had

been expecting the Bosnian government forces to attempt to lift the siege of the capital. The sources said the Bosnian forces had been bolstered by smuggled arms from abroad and a flourishing local arms industry, and the scales had swung against the Serbs.

There was speculation that the Bosnian army, instead of attempting to lift the siege, might try to seize the Serb-held town of Ilijas, about nine miles north of Sarajevo, which would clear two big junctions linking Sarajevo to the Bosnian enclave of Tuzla.

The Bosnian build-up might also be designed to put pressure on the international community by threatening the safety of hundreds of international troops who would be caught in the middle of a bloody battle for Sarajevo.

A UN convoy waiting for three days to resupply British soldiers in Gorazde was turned back yesterday. □ New York: The deployment of British reinforcements for the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia has been put on hold while the Clinton Administration haggles with Congress over cost (James Bane writes).

Britain, France and The Netherlands want the UN to pay for the new Rapid Reaction Force as a normal UN peacekeeping operation, forcing the US to bear its usual 31 per cent share of the cost.

The total price-tag for the force, which will involve up to 15,000 men, is estimated at \$400 million (£256 million) for the first six months. The European nations tabled a Security Council resolution on Monday and wanted to vote on Tuesday so that the new troops could start moving quickly into position.

Britain's 6,000-strong 24 Airborne Brigade, which makes up the bulk of the reinforcements, is on standby to move within 30 days of a Security Council vote.

The US, however, unexpectedly told the Security Council it was not yet ready to vote because it had not cleared the troop increase with Congress. As a result, the vote could be delayed until next week.



Bosnian army troops trudge through snow towards a peak 15 miles southwest of Sarajevo. Later they claimed to have captured it

Serbs lie in wait for 'suicide' attack

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ANALYSTS are debating whether the massing of Bosnian army troops is part of a big push to lift the siege of Sarajevo, or a deception plan to alarm the Bosnian Serbs and provoke them into taking military action that would further condemn them in the eyes of the international community.

The build-up of Bosnian government forces, reportedly now totalling 30,000 soldiers, around the town of Breza, 12 miles north of Sarajevo, has raised fears that the largely Muslim army is about to launch a full-scale attack to attempt to break the siege.

The reality, however, is likely to be far less ambitious. None of the warring factions has successfully mounted, or even attempted to mount, a strategically planned opera-

tion with such dramatic aims. The war has been about defending occupied territory and attempting to achieve tactical successes through very localised operations.

The location of the government troops at Breza indicates a number of possible next moves. Although it cannot be ruled out that the Bosnian army is engaged in an elaborate deception plan, there are potential tactical objectives.

Less than nine miles due north of the centre of Sarajevo are a range of hills called Cerniska Planina, which lie directly on the northern confrontation line. The highest hill has a plateau which overlooks a Serb-controlled communications route. Breza is a few miles to the west.

Since much of the fighting in the past year has been

about seizing high ground, the Bosnian troops at Breza could be preparing to take the Cerniska plateau in order to threaten the Serb road.

A full-scale operation to lift the siege of Sarajevo would be a suicide mission. First, the reports of 30,000 troops are probably exaggerated, and second, the Serbs have nearly 300 artillery pieces, tanks, cannons and heavy 120mm mortars in the Sarajevo area, lined up to target advancing troops.

There were 284 Serb heavy weapons originally taken to the United Nations collection points in Sarajevo and under the UN rules the Serbs are entitled to use them in self-defence. Many of these guns, some of which have been removed by the Serbs in the past few weeks, have been

firing on a daily basis, as the Serbs and government forces shell and counter-shell across the confrontation lines.

In one collection point, at a tiny village called Bare, five miles west of the centre of Sarajevo, there are 13 Serb mortars, nine tanks, six anti-aircraft guns and three howitzers. From these locations, the Serbs would be able to bring a barrage of fire against government forces were they to attempt to lift the siege.

Although the present focus is on the build-up of forces north of Sarajevo, the Muslims are still pressing on with more than half a dozen other tactical assaults on Serb positions elsewhere in Bosnia. After the release of the majority of the hostages, the Serbs will now feel under greater military pressure than ever.

Tapie is fined £3,000

Paris: Bernard Tapie, the bankrupt French politician, was fined 25,000 francs (£3,200) yesterday for abusing police who came to his Paris mansion to arrest him. He called the policemen "pathetic fools" when they called at dawn on June 29 last year in connection with an inquiry into alleged irregularities over his yacht the *Phoca*. He was so abusive that the officers had to handcuff him, the court was told. A request for damages by the officers was rejected. (AFP)

Sakhalin toll

Moscow: The final death toll from the earthquake on the Russian island of Sakhalin last month was 1,989, the region's deputy governor said. Only 1,208 people survived. (Reuters)

Coaster rescue

Abidjan: A Nigerian coast-guard with hundreds of people on board was taken under tow off Ghana after engine trouble. A tug was taking the vessel to port in Togo. (Reuters)

Pier disaster

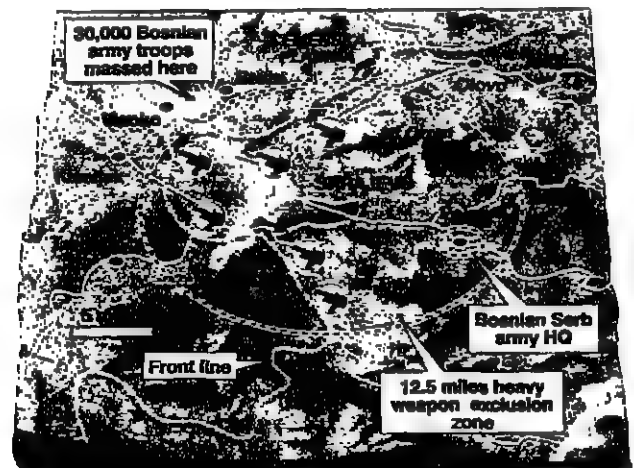
Bangkok: At least 20 people died and many others were believed still trapped after a floating pier packed with commuters capsized on Bangkok's main river. (Reuters)

Time honoured

San Francisco: Wen Tei Yue, 105, who left China for San Francisco in 1959, will have the US flag flown in her honour at the Capitol after finally becoming a US citizen. (AP)

Onion in pickle

Cairo: Egypt's most famous child pickpocket, Hassan Moursi, 12, nicknamed "The Onion", has been arrested after police set a trap for him on a crowded bus. (Reuters)



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Tremor risk to Roman monuments

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

GEOLOGISTS yesterday examined the foundations of the ancient Column of Marcus Aurelius in the centre of Rome, after the city this week was rocked by a series of strong earth tremors.

The Roman authorities are worried that the 100ft-high monument, erected in the Piazza Colonna between AD176 and 193, might collapse, possibly falling on the Palazzo Chigi, office of the Prime Minister, Lamberto Dini. The tremors, which were felt on Monday and Tuesday, registered 6 degrees on the Mercalli scale.

Also considered at risk is the Trajan Column. An English tourist, Judith Gold-bright, told *Il Messaggero* she had seen the 135ft Trajan Column wobble during one of the tremors.

Professor Renato Ponicello of the Italian National Institute of Geophysics said the column of Marcus Aurelius was most at risk because it had been fractured by strong earth tremors in 134 and was built on alluvial soil.

Chirac hit by flats for the rich scandal

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S governing classes were at the centre of a fresh scandal yesterday when newspapers disclosed that about two dozen public figures had been given luxury flats at low rents by the Paris council.

The press had already disclosed that President Chirac, who was Mayor of Paris until last month, and Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, live in palatial but cheap flats linked to the council. But yesterday's articles in *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the satirical weekly, and *Libération*, the left-wing daily, suggest that the council runs a murky housing network for the rich and famous.

The disclosures are embarrassing for M Chirac, who has promised a more modest form of government, and for Jean Tiberi, the man who has succeeded him as Mayor. Having told journalists that Paris would be run with "transparency", M Tiberi was furious at the claims by *Le Canard* that his two children live in flats owned by the council. He did not, however, deny the claims.

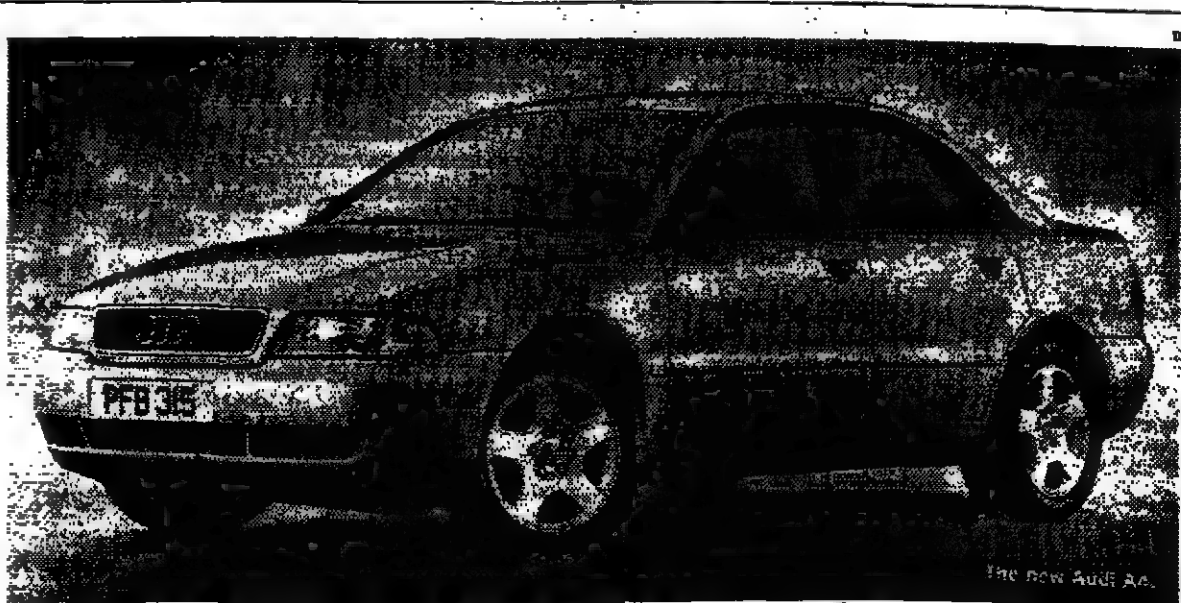
According to the press, the council owns about 1,300 pri-

vate flats, mainly in central Paris, which it lets at well below market rates. Among the beneficiaries are about 25 people close to M Chirac and M Tiberi, including at least two government ministers, the editor of a national magazine and Pierre Balladur, son of the former Prime Minister, *Le Canard* said.

With the right-wing coalition that dominates the French capital facing the second round of municipal elections on Sunday, councillors were speculating yesterday that the scandal had been leaked by the opposition. True or not, it is clear the Left intends to use the issue to its advantage in Paris.

Denouncing a "scandalous and obscure" system, Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Party's candidate in last month's presidential election, said: "One realises that a town run solely by teams and clans for years... is a town adrift in a whole series of ways."

Bertrand Delanoë, leader of the Paris Socialist group, recalled that the city had 20,000 homeless and 60,000 people on council waiting lists.



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مكتبة النور

Clinton undercuts his party with plan to slash spending

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton faced his own party's fury yesterday after an Oval Office address to the nation during which he announced, in a stunning reversal of strategy, a plan for balancing the federal budget in ten years.

Mr Clinton undercut months of Democratic attacks on the harshness of the Republicans' budget-balancing plans and jeopardised the support of core Democratic constituencies, especially the elderly, by calling for deep cuts in the programmes they had banked on him to defend.

In an extraordinary act of statesmanship, the President took from the hands of Democrats the knife with which they hoped to slit our throats. Tony Blankley, spokesman for Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, said:

Richard Gephardt and Tom Daschle, the Democrats' House and Senate leaders, and even most of Mr Clinton's own White House advisers had begged him to stick with the party's four-month-old strategy of standing back and letting the Republicans incur public wrath by slashing popular government services.

Mr Clinton disregarded the appeals in what amounts to one of the biggest gambles of his presidency. Aides said he had been stung by Republican charges that he had gone "AWOL", or "absent without leadership", on one of the most important issues of the day, and hoped that by declaring his priorities he could induce Republicans to mitigate their plans and avert a "sulphurous

summer" of presidential votes that could close down the Government if no budget was agreed.

This time the President followed the advice of Dick Morris, a conservative Connecticut pollster deeply resented by Mr Clinton's formal advisers, to whom the President has paid increasing attention since the Democrats' congressional rout last November. Mr Clinton knew his volte-face would anger liberals, but hopes to win over key centrist voters and supporters of Ross Perot who care about balancing the budget.

Democrats, except the most conservative, reacted with fury. The President was "playing right into the hands of the Republicans", Nancy Pelosi, a Californian member of Congress, said. The announcement was timed to exploit the acrimonious spirit of co-operation that infused Mr Clinton's debate with Mr Gingrich in



Gephardt: pleas over budget disregarded

New Hampshire on Sunday and to revive the President's leadership credentials before the G7 summit of industrialised nations that opens in Halifax, Nova Scotia, today.

His plan is a mitigated version of the Republican proposals. He would balance the budget by cutting \$1,100 billion (\$690 billion) in spending over ten years instead of seven. He would squeeze the Medicare health care programme for the elderly, but not as hard as the Republicans. He would protect education, training and other programmes that promote economic competitiveness but cut other domestic programmes, including welfare, by more than a fifth. He would offer about \$100 billion in tax concessions, but confine them to lower-income families while eliminating business subsidies known as "corporate welfare".

"There will be big cuts and they will hurt," the President said, but after 12 years of profligacy and with the national debt approaching \$5,000 billion it was "time to clean up this mess". His measures would balance the budget more gradually than the Republicans because "the pain [they would] inflict on our elderly, our students and our economy just is not worth it".

Neither Republicans nor economists were impressed by the Clinton plan. The former called it a "non-decision" by the Clinton plan. The latter noted that the bulk of the spending cuts were delayed until the end of the ten years.

US persuades Moscow to halt Iran weapons sales

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA will announce an agreement this month to stop future conventional arms sales to Iran, ending a £2 billion weapons export programme which has provided Tehran with the latest Russian combat aircraft, battle tanks and diesel-powered submarines.

The breakthrough agreement, which was first discussed between President Clinton and President Yeltsin last September, follows continuous pressure from Washington to stem the flow of sophisticated weaponry to Iran. The deal is to be announced by Al Gore, the American vice-president, and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, at a

meeting in Moscow and will give an immediate boost to a new proposal, initiated by the Americans, to set up a multinational conventional arms export control regime to replace the old cold war organisation, Cocom.

The Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls was formed in 1949 by Nato and Japan to restrict the supply of military and dual-use technology to the Soviet Union and its allies. Based at the US Embassy in Paris, Cocom compiled detailed lists of embargoed goods and developed export control systems. It was wound up in March last year.

Senior officials at the US State Department involved in

recent negotiations with Moscow said it was vital that Russia agree to stop future arms sales to Iran before being accepted as a founding member of the proposed post-Cocom regime. Russia is one of the world's main arms suppliers and since the end of the cold war has sold billions of dollars' worth of second-hand and new weapons to countries like Iran.

Under the agreement to be announced in Moscow this month, Russia will be able to complete existing arms sales to Tehran but will not enter into any new contracts. Washington is satisfied that none of the arms still to be supplied will alter the regional military balance.



Officers of the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department manhandle a Vietnamese boat person into an aircraft after he resisted repatriation from the colony. He was among 100 boat people sent home yesterday. Brian

Bresnahan, the colony's refugee co-ordinator, said: "There is no future for them in Hong Kong." (Reuters)

Spotlight turned on UN waste

FROM MICHAEL BRYNION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

WHENEVER world leaders gather, there is always a risk that the formal agenda will be overshadowed by a world crisis. The French decision to resume nuclear testing and imminent Bosnian action to lift the siege of Sarajevo will both figure at the summit discussions of G7 leaders when they meet for two days of talks in Halifax, Nova Scotia, this evening. But top of the formal agenda is the failure of the world community to rein in runaway spending by the United Nations.

Reflecting the growing frustration among the biggest contributors to the UN budget at the UN's waste, duplication and inability to cut agencies no longer needed, the leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations will draw up plans for a radical streamlining. They hope that their proposals will put the UN on a firmer financial footing and win support for reform from more than 160 other members.

Their proposals concentrate especially on the UN's trade and economic agencies, many of which are redundant. "The objective is to create organisations that fulfil today's needs," a British official said. "There is too much overlap. The UN needs to sharpen up the delivery of its policies."

The Prime Minister, John Major, will make it clear that Britain actively supports the permanent inclusion of



Germany and Japan in the Security Council, but leaders will not otherwise spend much time on its structure.

The UN's inability to halt the fighting in Bosnia will also dominate the summit. Mr Major and President Chirac of France will press for a re-launch of the diplomatic initiatives. They will argue that Carl Bildt, the new peace negotiator, should be given a free hand to get the political discussions moving again.

President Yeltsin will be an important voice in the Bosnian discussions. He will arrive after the G7 leaders' economic discussions on the first day, but will be included in the working dinner that will also examine economic issues.

British officials said Russia would be more actively included in the summit discussions than on previous occasions.

Many of the topics on the full agenda are perennial: measures to boost employment, the state of world trade, debt relief for the poorest nations, and Western aid to underpin Ukraine's promise to shut the remaining Chernobyl nuclear reactors.

The G7 leaders will this year discuss new proposals for relief of debt in sub-Saharan Africa, where the economic constraints are most acute.

There is a widespread feeling that the financial crisis in Mexico was badly handled, and that the lessons for other countries have not been properly learned. The G7 leaders will point, privately, to the other developing economies that might suffer the same crash if the early warning signs are not heeded.

The bitter trade dispute between the United States and Japan will be kept off the agenda as far as possible, but the repercussions will be felt in Halifax. President Clinton may come under sharp attack from other leaders who fear that America's unilateral tariff moves will undermine the newly established World Trade Organisation.

All leaders have insisted at each G7 summit that they want to get back to the spirit of the "fireside chats" of the first G7 meeting. The Canadians have therefore scrapped a grand dinner on the opening night, and tomorrow Mr Major will plunge straight into a working meal with fellow leaders. Officials say more is achieved at these dinners than at formal sessions.

The only concession to fun and ceremony will be a fireworks display after dinner on Friday evening.

WORLD SUMMARY

Dominica election recount

Roseau, Dominica: A recount has delayed the official announcement of a banana merchant's likely victory to replace Dame Eugenia Charles as Dominica's Prime Minister. Edison James formed his United Workers Party after Dame Eugenia, known as the Iron Lady of the Caribbean, spurned his suggestions for salvaging Dominica's threatened banana industry, a chief element of its economy. (AP)

Israeli agents kill Arafat guards

Jerusalem: Israeli undercover soldiers of the Samson squad shot and killed two members of Yasser Arafat's elite guard unit, Force 17, and an armed Palestinian fugitive they were helping to infiltrate back into the Gaza Strip from Egypt. The shootout increased right-wing Israeli scepticism about PLO intentions.

Oklahoma bomb suspect traced

Washington: Investigators into the Oklahoma City bombing believe they have found the man who was at a lorry rental firm in Kansas on the same day as Timothy McVeigh and who was identified as John Doe 2, but say he probably had nothing to do with the attack.

Fund set up for comfort women

Tokyo: Japan said it would set up a charity funded by contributions from the public to compensate survivors among the "comfort women" forcibly recruited from occupied countries as prostitutes in army brothels during the Second World War. (Reuters)

Chinese gambler wins £1.7m

Hong Kong: A Chinese tourist from Hoiping turned a 50p bet into a £1.7 million jackpot at a slot machine in the Portuguese colony of Macau. He won the four-month accumulated jackpot at the casino of the Hotel Lisboa. (Reuters)

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Cairo court orders happily married couple to divorce

FROM REUTERS IN CAIRO

PUSHED by Muslim fundamentalists, an Egyptian court ruled yesterday that a happily married couple must divorce because the husband's writings showed he was an apostate while she was a Muslim, court sources said.

An Egyptian human rights activist said that the judgement meant that the two must live apart until a final appeal. If they were caught together alone, they could be considered adulterers and the man killed.

Fundamentalists took the case to court in 1993 without consulting either the husband, Nasr Hamed Abu Zeid, a lecturer, or Ibtihal Younis, his wife. Mr Abu Zeid had won a lower court victory, but the fundamentalists appealed. Yesterday Cairo appeal court for personal status decided against the lecturer and for the fundamentalists.

"We are astounded," said Hafez Abu Saada, an activist with the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights. "This verdict threatens all

intellectuals and even those in power. On the basis of this verdict, anyone can be accused of being an infidel."

Egyptian intellectuals see the verdict as a further sign of the increasing influence of fundamentalists in all aspects of their society. Mr Abu Saada said that the implications of the verdict could be fatal for Mr Abu Zeid. He added that the couple must live separately until their lawyers lodge a final appeal within one or two months.

"Until that time," he said, "if they are found together alone, they are considered adulterers, and if someone murders Nasr Abu Zeid for being an apostate he will not be considered a criminal."

Neither Mr Abu Zeid nor his wife could be reached to see how they would react or if they would comply with the ruling. In the past they have scorned the idea.

Islamist lawyers claim that Mr Abu Zeid's writings on interpretation of the Koran amounted to atheism.

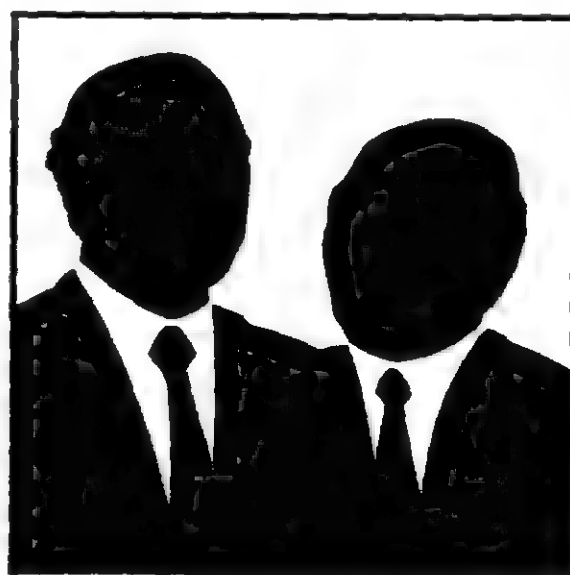
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'I shook so much, I could not even sign my name'

Severe tremor can be a disabling condition. Dr James Le Fanu discusses its causes and treatment

In a classic study of war neurosis published in 1941, Dr John Sutherland, lecturer in psychology at Edinburgh University, found the commonest physical symptom to be "tremor and jumpiness", especially in reaction to sudden noises. Fear of death was the major precipitant, especially in those whose fathers had died in the First World War.

Fear and tremor are virtually synonymous. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," wrote St Paul in his Epistle to the Philippians, and we shake with fear, and "tremble like a leaf" after a shock.

This fear-induced tremor is caused by the chemical adrenaline, which exaggerates and amplifies the normal physiological tremor readily demonstrable by the fine oscillations of a sheet of paper placed on the back of the hands when the arms are outstretched.

Nowadays this exaggerated physiological tremor is of particular concern to musicians prone to stage fright, as it can so readily compromise their performance. Nearly a third of professional musicians regularly take a beta-blocker which, by antagonising the effect of adrenaline, reduces the tremor and other symptoms of anxiety. Dr Ian James of the Royal Free Hospital, London has found the drug's benefits to be especially marked in string players, because of the adverse effect that tremor has on bowing.

There are, however, several

other types of tremor which are unrelated to fear or anxiety, but of particular interest to neurologists, because the sufferers are frequently labelled neurotic and denied adequate treatment. These tremors are not present at rest, which distinguishes them from those associated with common neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease, but rather become apparent during the maintenance of a fixed position.

In the commonest — benign essential tremor — the hands start to shake uncontrollably whenever they assume a fixed or stable position, such as holding a cup or fork, during writing, or in other types of fine manipulation such as doing up buttons.

Benign essential tremor runs in families, can come on at any age, and gradually deteriorates over time. Predictably it can have a disastrous impact on social life, discouraging sufferers from visiting restaurants or pubs, while speaking in public or even a handshake is an ordeal. A schoolteacher in her late thirties observed that on being introduced her hands shook so forcefully that men would be under the misapprehension that they were exerting a strong emotional effect upon her.

Quite remarkably this tremor is abolished completely, albeit temporarily, by alcohol. This is clearly very useful for those worried that they might be embarrassed by their tremor during a social event, but



Tremor induced by stagefright is of great concern to musicians: it can ruin a performance

carries the risk of ending in chronic alcoholism. As one neurologist observed rather censoriously: "The fact that a dose of spirits will temporarily check the tremor appears only too often to serve as an excuse for habits of intemperance."

Alcohol is, however, of little use for those whose tremor threatens their livelihood, either because it interferes with the manual skills of, for exam-

ple, tool makers or lorry drivers, or simply because it damages their prospects of promotion.

The mainstay of current medical treatment was discovered quite fortuitously by a female patient of Dr Gerald Winkler, a physician at Harvard Medical School. Back in 1974, soon after his patient started taking the newly discovered drug propranolol for

an abnormality of heart rhythm, she realised that her severe essential tremor had disappeared, allowing her to sign her name for the first time in five years. Dr Winkler promptly tried the drug on a further 24 patients with essential tremor and found it to be very useful in three-quarters. Propranolol reduces the intensity of the tremor by almost half, which is usually sufficient to allow patients to eat and drink in public without undue embarrassment and to continue in their jobs.

The second type of tremor poses problems for people when standing still. They have no trouble when sitting or walking, but when they have to maintain a fixed position, such as standing at a supermarket checkout or waiting for a bus, their legs start shaking, they become increasingly unsteady and have to take a step in order to regain their balance.

This condition is known as primary orthostatic tremor and, according to Dr Thomas Britton, senior registrar at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London, "many patients are initially labelled as suffering from a psychiatric illness". He describes the case of a 25-year-old woman whose symp-

Sufferers are often wrongly labelled as mental cases

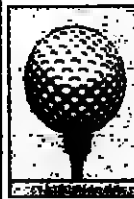
toms had started four years earlier, and for whom "unsteadiness began a few seconds after having to stand still. If forced to stand for long periods, the shaking would become so pronounced as to make her fall."

Regrettably neither alcohol nor propranolol are of any use, though some of the drugs used for treating epilepsy have occasionally been successful. "Most patients are just pleased to know the diagnosis," says Dr Britton, "particularly if a psychiatric cause had been suspected." He advises patients to buy a shooting stick with a rubber end so that, whether doing the cooking or standing in a bus queue, they can sit in comfort without fear of toppling over.

Tremors have always fascinated neurologists, presumably because they are so obvious. And even if their cause is often uncertain and their origins disputed, accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment can transform the lives of victims.

Wear and tear on the links □ Gynaecologists face their public □ How psittacosis is spread

Golfers who suffer for their sport



SIR Denis Thatcher is giving up golf. An arthritic back has driven him off the fairways but not, it is hoped, from convivial company at the 19th hole.

The swinging, twisting action of playing golf is guaranteed to grind together all those spicules of bone which roughen the edges of the joints in a well used vertebral column.

There is always some pain when the articular surfaces of an arthritic joint move on each other; but in the back these spicules, little bony outgrowths, increase the misery by causing nerve root pressure, giving rise to the type of pain which the patient usually attributes to "a trapped nerve". Sir Denis's back, and other joints, must have suffered severe wear and tear over the years; military service and countless rounds of golf. Even without exceptional strain the backs of most patients, by the time they are 80, are becoming osteoporotic; their height shrinks, the vertebral bones collapse, discs degenerate



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

and the intervening joints become disorganised and arthritic. The spinal joints are not the only ones to suffer when playing golf. The swing subjects the knees to severe stresses and strains, so that those who perhaps started their sporting careers playing rugby football find that the cartilages they damaged 60 years earlier begin to take their toll and cause arthritis.

One consolation is that although Sir Denis may not enjoy life so much without golf, he may live longer. Research a few years ago showed that even when allowances had been made for any excesses at the 19th, including smoking, the death rate among golf players was higher than among non-players. A leading cardiologist at the time thought this might be related to changes in the intra-thoracic pressure and the coronary circulation caused by the swing when the club was raised above the shoulders. The cardiologist himself was evidently not too alarmed, however. We had lunch together just before he retired — reassuringly, to a house he had chosen because it was beside a golf course where he could play two rounds a day.

Any questions on pregnancy?



THE Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is arranging a series of meetings at which women, and presumably men too if they are interested, can meet the leading specialists in this field, hear about the latest

research, and question them on their own subject and any other problems related to the speciality. Last year the Royal College devoted a session to HRT; it was so over-subscribed that other meetings on the same subject are now being planned, and will probably be held at centres throughout the country.

On Monday June 26 at 2pm at the Royal College in Regent's Park, London, Mr Marcus Setchell, the Queen's gynaecologist, is chairing the second meeting which is open to the general public. This will be on lifestyle in pregnancy.

Pregnant women, and those contemplating pregnancy, have a very understandable desire to do their best for their future child: to help to satisfy this demand a team of consultant obstetricians will discuss the influence of three aspects of lifestyle during pregnancy on the baby's, and the mother's, health.

Mr Robert Fraser, from the Medical Research Council unit at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, is an expert on nutrition in pregnancy and will talk on diet, alcohol and drugs. The women who attend will find that Robert Fraser gives sound, middle-of-the-road advice.

Ms Margaret Thom from Guy's Hospital will discuss the role of exercise in maintaining health when pregnant. She is not a doctor who encourages slothfulness.

Ms Katrina Erskine from St Bartholomew's and the Homerton Hospital will deal with infections, including such common ones as thrush and bacterial vaginosis, but will also discuss those which are more rare but

more frightening, including listeriosis, toxoplasmosis and HIV.

Dr Lindsey Smith, a general practitioner, will lead the final discussion.

The Royal College has arranged this opportunity for those who wonder if their diet in pregnancy is right, when they should start folic acid, if the household cat represents a menace to the baby, if jogging will produce too small a child. Find out the answers to these and other questions by obtaining details of the meeting from Francis Smythe, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1 4RG (telephone 0171-262 5425).

A dead parrot is no joke



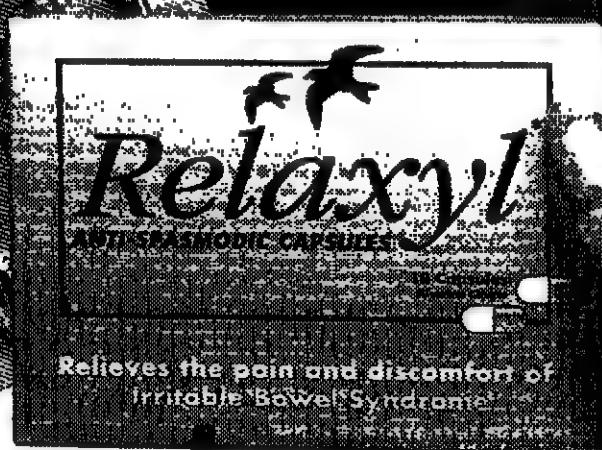
SPARKY, an exotic parrot whose ownership is in dispute, bit the finger of a witness who was attempting to demonstrate to Snaresbrook Crown Court what old friends they were.

Sparky, one of six parrots before the court, was very much alive, but another was already dead and deep frozen. It is to be hoped that the bird did not die from *Chlamydia psittaci*, which causes psittacosis, and can be transmitted to humans. This type of *Chlamydia* is frequently found in birds of the parrot family, but also infects canaries and other caged birds, pigeons, and even the domestic hen.

Chlamydia were originally thought to be similar to viruses, but now are believed to be more closely related to bacteria. Psittacosis can be spread by a peck, such as the one Sparky bestowed on his claimant, and also by breathing in dust, or from bird feathers or dried droppings.

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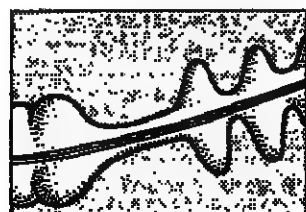
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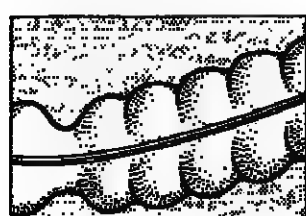
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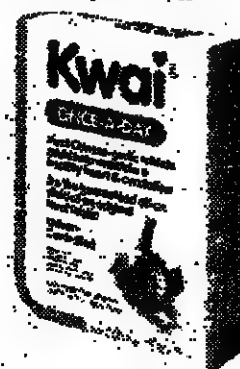
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It doesn't pay to be a good girl

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets a woman who has made it to the top in her career by forgetting everything her mother told her

We say sorry when someone steps on our toes, sit in the back row at board meetings, and nearly faint if someone pays us a compliment. We scuff our shoes and keep our heads down. To the British, being pushy is as suspect as serving cheese before pudding, admitting to weekly therapy sessions, or proclaiming that Torvill and Dean did not deserve to win the Olympics.

Heaven knows what we will make of Kate White, the editor of the American *Redbook* magazine (*Good Housekeeping* with orgasms), who arrived in Britain this week to plug her book and its revolutionary message: *Why Good Girls Don't Get Ahead... but Gutsy Girls Do*.

When Ms White announced this on the radio, a listener rang in to say she had unplugged her radio in disgust. A glossy magazine described her as "a great white shark". All of which should be water off White's designer-jacketed back, since one of the principal rules of being a gutsy girl is not to care what other people think about you.

"Oh, I thought it was fantastic," she says, tucking in to a hearty steak and chips in a London hotel. "If you irritate people, it's a sign that you've said something provocative and interesting." All the same, she is a bit hurt at being portrayed as a Machiavellian schemer. "I'm not suggesting you put tacks on your competitors' chairs. All I'm saying is, don't be afraid to ask for what you want, and don't think trouble is going to go away. These are pretty basic rules."

They are, but it takes White nearly 300 pages and lots of incomprehensible American maxims such as "Learn to Play Cut the Squirrels" and "The Squeaky Wheel Gets the Grease" to get them across. Still, what she says does need reinforcing, given that most women — let alone girls — would rather wear nylon polka dot flares than ask for a promotion.

But one look at White, 44, shows why it might pay to take her advice. If she hadn't existed, *Redbook* would have had to invent her: she is slim, glamorous, has a TV anchorman husband called Brad and two children called Hunter and Hayley. Obviously, you think, she must be a stilettoed, shoulder-padded, ball-breaking cow. In fact, she is soft-spoken, slightly hesitant and given to looking down at her hands, giggling, nodding and saying "mmm humm" a lot — all "good girl" crowd-pleasing habits which she has exhorted us to abandon.

Maybe White is so important she can now break her own rules. Or maybe the "good-girl" traits have died hard. After all, according to White, girls watch their mothers looking after everybody except

themselves and decide that being a woman is all about neglecting number one. If a girl snatches a toy from another child she is admonished. When a boy does the same his parents are amused.

White admits to being a goody two-shoes at school. ("The boys looked at you with a certain degree of disdain if you shouted out in class.") A small-town girl, she won the prestigious *Glamour* magazine Top Ten College Women contest but instead of landing a reporting job when she graduated, she spent months as a secretary, because she was too shy to tell anyone she wanted to write. "I figured they knew I was there and would come and find me if they wanted me." Eventually she steered herself to apply for a writing job. She didn't get it, but — after a trial assignment spending a day as Coco the Clown with Ringling Bros circus — a new job was created for her. "I realised I had always got what I wanted when I asked for it."

Two small children changed White's priorities, making her see that if she was ever to get home by 5.30pm, she would have to delegate the "grunt" work, stop mothering her staff and make instant decisions.

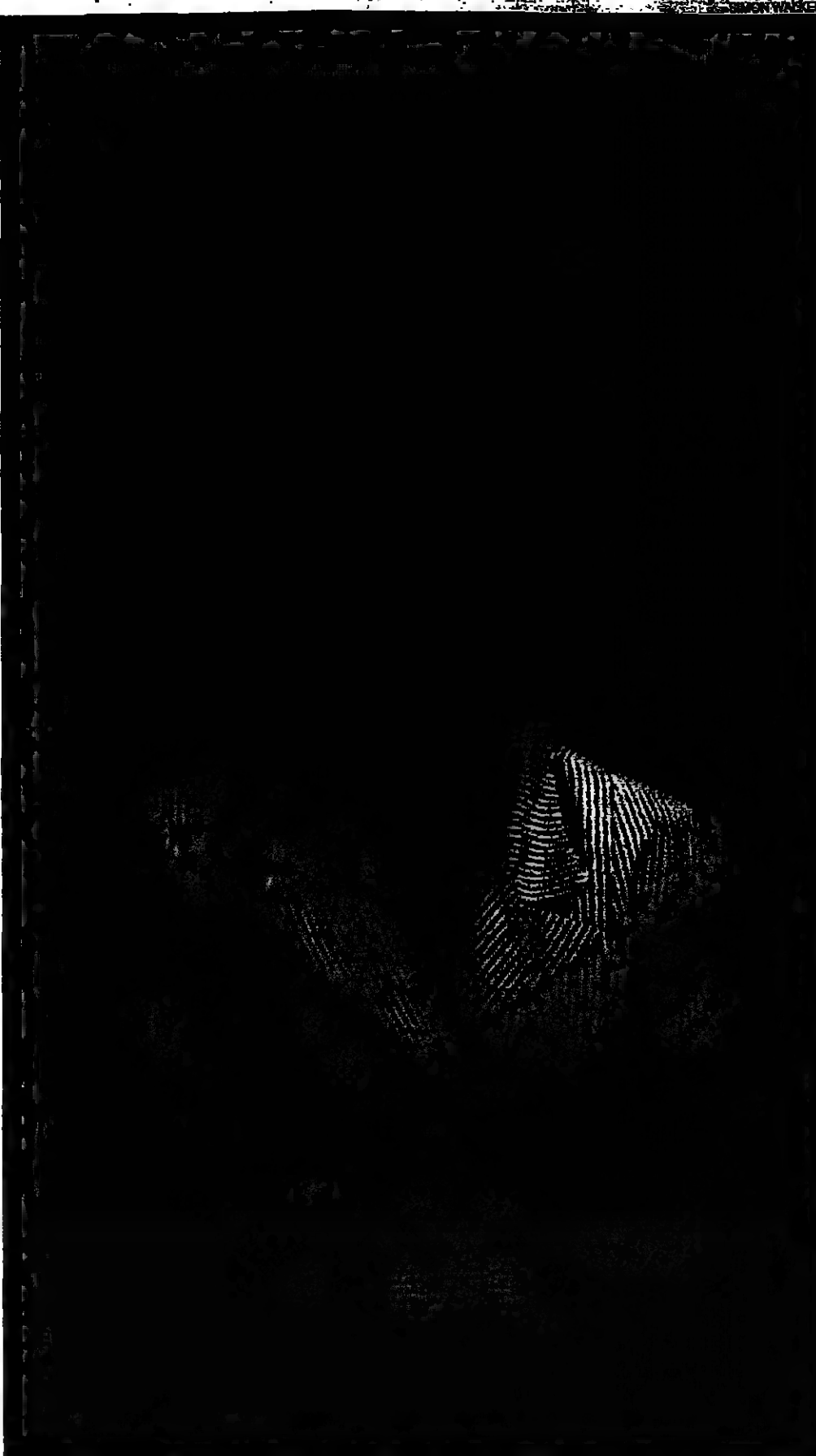
The waiter asks if we want coffee. "Yeah, cappuccino without cinnamon or chocolate on top," says White. Her cappuccino arrives naked, mine is clogged with lumpy brown powder.

"There aren't that many famous good girls," she continues. "But Hillary Clinton made the mistake of trying to be the perfect First Lady, to oversee her health plan and the new curtains that were being put up in the White House." Bill Clinton is a mixture of good and gutsy. "He made a dreadful speech at the Democrats' Convention, but instead of being a good guy and thinking politics isn't for me, he decided to learn from his mistakes. But now, he too is making the error of trying to please everybody and pleasing no one."

Who knows where Clinton might be if he had read White's book, or for that matter, Oprah Winfrey, one of the most successful women in America, who once said that she could have been even more famous if she hadn't been so anxious to make everyone else happy? If even these two need to take the message to heart, British bosses can relax in the knowledge that it will be a while still before employees start demanding a rise, leaving early and delegating "grunt" work as if they were playing a particularly vigorous game of pass the parcel. And they will be on their retirement yachts in Ibiza by the time we stop saying "sorry".

Why Good Girls Don't Get Ahead... but Gutsy Girls Do, Century £9.99.

Never be afraid to ask for what you want



Kate White: "If you irritate people, it's a sign that you've said something provocative"

The etiquette of abasement

From Japan with apologies

AFTER weeks of public picking, the Japanese Government has agreed on the text for an official declaration of what is referred to in English as Japan's "regret for its war record". The statement marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacific War is apparently designed to win back the trust of the neighbouring Asian countries Japan so brutally occupied.

It appears to have had the opposite effect. For a start, the statement itself has been interpreted as no different from the usual empty ritual pronouncements that have emerged over the past ten years: from successive Cabinets reluctant to sacrifice right-wing support. Yet again, the word "apology" has been studiously avoided in favour of "regret".

The cynicism with which the agreement was brokered has not gone unnoticed. The governing coalition got the statement accepted only after complex horse-trading, including a deal struck with a notoriously corrupt politician exempting him from parliamentary testimony on his latest bribery scandal in return for support for the "regret" legislation. No wonder the declaration has done nothing to quell the antipathy between Japan and its Asian neighbours.

The trouble is that the Japanese culture of apology does not travel well. Broadly, Japan's apology range can be divided into two categories — the official and the unofficial.

The unofficial applies to situations in which both the offender and the offended are anonymous, such as during the subway rush hour. Official apologies, however, flow constantly, according to rules instilled in all good Japanese. A train driver who pulls up to the station more than two minutes behind schedule

will, if the misdemeanour is repeated, be expected to apologise to his senior with nose-to-knees bowings and judicious use of the vast honorific vocabulary of the apology. Depending on the case, he will return to work shamed, or be given a hint that he should resign. Consequences can be more extreme. A minor official from Kobe, psychologically scarred by the great earthquake, committed suicide, apparently feeling responsible for the inadequacy of rescue attempts.

At the happier end of the scale, an apology is necessary before doing a favour or giving a gift

because this automatically puts the recipient into a position of indebtedness. Thus the typical instinctive response on receipt of a favour or gift is: "Disaster. Don't particularly want it. Now I have to respond with an equal or greater gift."

Ungrateful, perhaps, but a box of grapes can cost £250 and a dull bunch of flowers £75. Apologies are also woven into self-abasement. When a hostess slaves to produce a superb meal for her in-laws, she should, before serving, apologise for the pile of muck until even for the dog to eat. In-laws will smile and respond: "No, no. It is surely a feast."

THERE is glorious scope for comic blunders by foreign barbarians, such as the time when my host apologised for the revolting meal prepared by his dance of a wife.

When I retorted that neither could the (delicious) meal be revolting nor his (successful) mother and businesswoman wife be a dummy, his explanation then required an apology from me for being so ignorant and then another more humble one from him for being so rude as to correct my literal interpretation. Six or seven sorries later, we sat down to dinner.



JOANNA PITMAN

Ben Macintyre follows the colourful voyages of a financial pirate

For nearly a quarter-century the financier Robert Vesco enjoyed a luxurious and nomadic life on the run after allegedly swindling more than \$200 million (£133 million) from gullible American investors.

He moved from Costa Rica to the Bahamas to Antigua, before settling in Cuba in 1982, spending his ill-gotten gains freely while charges against him expanded to include drug trafficking, money laundering, bribery and even making an illegal contribution to the campaign to re-elect Richard Nixon in 1972.

Under the personal protection of Fidel Castro, Vesco became Cuba's "de facto minister of corruption" in the words of one Miami politician. Last week his remarkable criminal voyage came to a sudden, ignominious halt when he was arrested by Cuban police at his sumptuous villa in Havana and accused of being a "provocateur and agent for foreign special services".

At first it appeared that Havana might extradite Vesco to America in an attempt to curry favour with Washington and encourage the Clinton Administration to lift the Cuban embargo. But then the authorities went strangely silent, insisting that "el Americano" was "under a process of investigation".

At the age of 59, Vesco now sits in a Cuban jail, a pawn in a high-stakes game of international diplomacy, a pirate without portfolio.

A working-class dropout with the gift of the gab, as a teenager Vesco had one ambition: "To get the hell out of Detroit." This he achieved with astonishing success. By the age of 30, he was already one of the most flamboyant entrepreneurs in America.

In 1970 he bought a struggling mutual fund, International Overseas Investors, for

A man who has spent his life on the run



Robert Vesco: a pawn in the game of diplomacy

\$5 million, and funds from the Geneva-based company immediately and mysteriously began disappearing. The American authorities quickly became interested, but not quickly enough. Before charges could be filed against him, Vesco, his family, his yacht, his private planes and a vast pile of loot had vanished to Costa Rica.

In 1973, Vesco was charged with illegally donating \$200,000 to Nixon's re-election campaign the year before, allegedly as a bribe to solve his legal problems, but by then Vesco was out of reach. He renounced his US citizenship and began investing heavily in his adopted country, to the delight of Costa Rican President José Figueres Ferrer, one of the beneficiaries of Vesco's largesse.

In 1978, Vesco was obliged to relocate to the Bahamas, after his involvement in presidential politics erupted in a full-blown political scandal. The location changed, but the lifestyle did not.

Vesco was by now allegedly attempting to bribe officials of the Carter Administration into allowing Libya to buy American military planes. When those charges surfaced, Vesco moved to Antigua. There then followed another period of wandering, before he finally settled in Cuba in 1982.

Under the name "John Adams" Vesco set up shop, as a guest of the government, in a private villa on the exclusive Marina Hemingway. He joined the golf club, built himself a series of beachfront properties, sent his children to Havana's International School and threw parties of legendary opulence.

That the Cuban authorities allowed the capitalist American to gorge openly on vintage champagne and lobster, while the rest of the country survived on beans and rice, may be put down to his other, highly lucrative activities.

According to American authorities, Vesco began investing in the drug trade and smuggling American goods to Cuba, from the moment he arrived, becoming a close ally of one Colonel Antonio de la Guardia, a senior official in Cuba's interior ministry.

In 1987, he was identified as a co-conspirator in the trial of the Colombian drug baron Carlos Lehder Rivas. Two years later he was indicted in Florida on charges of conspiring to import cocaine into America.

But as an honoured guest under the protection of Castro, Vesco appeared perfectly secure and the party continued unchecked, until last week.

The financier's abrupt fall from grace has baffled US officials, but Vesco's star may have begun to wane as early as 1989 when his friend Colonel de la Guardia was executed for drug-trafficking. Others believe that Vesco's flagrant high-living had begun to irritate Castro. At least 91 American fugitives are holed up in Cuba — an unsavoury crew, of whom Vesco is by far the most conspicuous.

Another intriguing possibility involves Vesco's links with the Cuban state tourism authority, Cubanair, which has reportedly made unexplained losses of \$100 million in the past year. Cuba's honoured guest, it appears, may have been ripping off his hosts in the consummate act of criminal chutzpah.

An American delegation is heading to Cuba to discuss Vesco's deportation, but Havana has not specified which foreign power he is supposedly working for and officials in Washington now say that Castro may resist returning him to America, since his intimate knowledge of the regime's darkest secrets could prove highly embarrassing.

The longer he remains incarcerated in diplomatic limbo, the more nervous the American authorities become. Vesco remains hugely rich, well-connected and no stranger to the power of bribery. Washington is under no illusions that this master of the vanishing act could easily slip through its fingers once again.

Did he give money to help Nixon?

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Janet Daley



■ America is finally turning the tide against positive discrimination — and so are Rugby schoolboys

Easy to see the boys of Rugby School as apprentice old buffers — prematurely middle-aged in their reactionary bigotry, they have risen up in protest against the very idea of having a head girl. So chauvinism is alive and well in the British public school — blah blah. Except that it wasn't quite like that. What angered the Rugby boys was not the appointment of a head girl as such, but the unilateral decision of their Head Master who — as they saw it — rushed through a premature bit of politically correct public relations. Louise Woolcock has been a pupil at Rugby for only one year. In the eyes of many pupils who have spent their entire secondary school careers there, she does not have the seniority or the experience of the school to qualify for this elevation. In another three years, there will be a whole generation of female pupils who entered at 13. So why hurry to push a girl to the fore now? You may or may not sympathise with the boys' anger. What matters is that they are resentful not because they oppose the idea of female advancement, but because they feel that one person has been given an unfair advantage. Well, as your elders always tell you, life is unfair. Favouritism of a more personal kind has been known to affect the appointment of head boys in the past. So one kind of prejudice has simply won out over the other kinds. Supporters of positive discrimination — or affirmative action as it prefers to be known — will tell you that the world has been rigged for a very long time in favour of those who now shout loudest in protest at the promotion of other groups. "It's our turn now," say the disadvantaged. "We have to do a lot of catching up to establish a fair society."

You will, I hope, have noticed the logical flaw in this argument: the notion that you can cancel out one kind of unfairness by introducing an equal and opposite unfairness. Unlike in physics, where two counterbalancing forces will result in a balanced stalemate, all that is accomplished here is the invention of new ways to be unfair, thus producing even more inequality and bitterness.

So the sum total of inequity is increased rather than diminished, and most dangerously, bias itself is accepted as a guiding principle of behaviour. There used to be an understanding among liberal-minded people that prejudice of any flavour was wrong. Positive discrimination put an end to all that. Now all that is required is that you discriminate in the right ways. Justice should not be blind but deliberately partial: handing out prizes as rewards for past suffering or alienation. Any hope

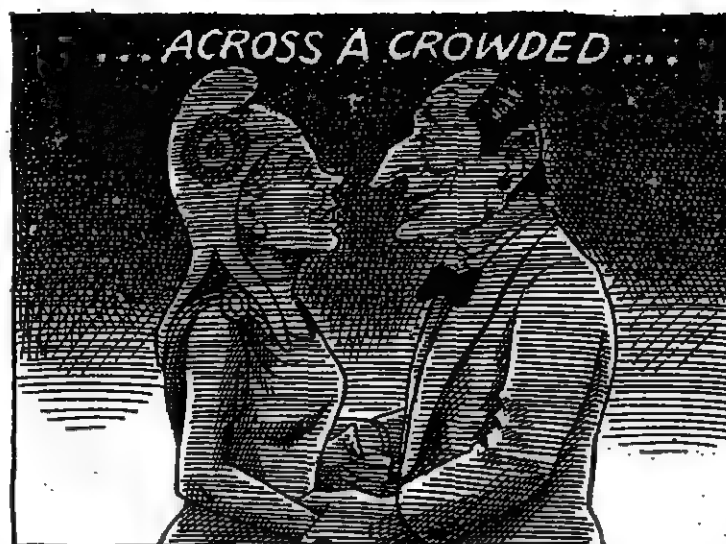
of eliminating intolerance is abandoned: social justice becomes a contest between warring factions, each armed with its set of litigious grievances. This week, America's Supreme Court passed a ruling which should bring some cheer to Rugby School. More importantly, it may mark the beginning of the end of victim politics, which has swept away traditional American ideas of equality. In overruling a previous judgment by a Colorado court, the Supreme Court justices have reinterpreted the notion of positive discrimination. The earlier judgment had found against a white contractor who claimed he had been disadvantaged by a quota system that favoured businesses owned by Hispanics. The Supreme Court has now decided that a wholesale preference for enterprises run by minority groups, regardless of their economic or practical merits, is unconstitutional (which is an arcane American way of saying that it runs counter to the current idea of fair play).

In future, affirmative action programmes must only be a recourse for individuals who feel they have been discriminated against in specific instances, not as a general prescription for increasing the participation of minorities. Old-fashioned criteria such as merit, usefulness and individual worth cannot be disregarded. Like most Supreme Court decisions, this one reflects the political fashion of the time.

The United States has at last become disenchanted with the ascendancy of groups over individuals. Affirmative action has been rumbled: it was a policy designed for and by professional activists. By legalising unfairness, it became a charter for any self-seeking opportunist who wished to play the gender or race card. Not only did it have little to offer the genuinely underprivileged, as a policy it was positively damaging to their interests. By branding every member of certain groups "disadvantaged", it erased their individuality, defining them entirely by their supposed disability (even if that consisted of being female, which is not a minority condition).

The assumption that some people can never succeed without a weighting of the dice undermines them in the end. It classifies people in inescapable ways by their colour or their genital arrangements, and makes fatalistic assumptions about them on that insulting basis. Worst of all, it defers the real improvements in their conditions or their education which would make discrimination in their favour unnecessary.

Telling people they need a leg-up is belittling



Her ideas go marching on

Unlike her predecessors, Thatcher has an important message for the future

Margaret Thatcher is winning the endgame. When she was removed from the leadership of the Conservative Party in November 1990, there was a lot of personal feeling to it. She suffered from the hurt pride of those she had to dismiss or had failed to promote. Of the three chief co-conspirators, Michael Heseltine, Nigel Lawson and Geoffrey Howe — the lion, the unicorn and the strawman of the old Tory party — only Michael Heseltine is both a corporatist and a Euro-federalist. Their temporary partnership was not about ideas, on which the three of them never agreed. Yet their coup raised the great issue of the guiding principles of the Tory party. Would the Conservatives remain an independent national party of the Right, or would they become a corporatist, Euro-federalist party of the Left, centre, closely allied to the Christian Democrats on the Continent?

For a time it looked as though the new Conservative Government under John Major was going to disown Margaret Thatcher's principles and adopt the more left-wing principles of the continental Christian Democrats. It was the Italian Christian Democrats, with Giulio Andreotti as Prime Minister, who laid the trap in Rome which exposed Margaret Thatcher to the November challenge. When he became Prime Minister, with Margaret Thatcher's support, John Major's first big mistake was to distance himself from his predecessor. He did it partly out of an understandable desire to establish his own independence, partly from a natural wish to free himself from the more unpopular features of her leadership, and partly from a belief that there was a European opening that she had rejected. Yet it has done him more damage than any other decision he has taken.

Certainly the left wing of the Conservative Party saw the removal of Margaret Thatcher as its great ideological victory. The new Government signed the disastrous Maastricht treaty, won a surprising victory in the 1992 general election and then whipped the Maastricht Bill through Parliament, quite ruthlessly. Until September 1992, when the Government was forced to take the pound out of the European exchange-rate mechanism, it looked as though the Left had captured the Conservative Party. It does not look like that now. The second volume of Margaret

Thatcher's memoirs, *The Path to Power*, is divided into two parts. The first covers her life up to 1979, when she took office. The second is called "Beginning Again" and looks to the future. The first gives a very readable account of how she came to be Prime Minister, and how her ideas were formed. Yet it is "Beginning Again" that may prove the more important. In it, Margaret Thatcher lays down the main principles of her kind of Conservatism, and their application to the future.

No other Conservative prime minister this century has enjoyed much influence on the formation of policy after his resignation. Indeed, if one looks further back, Disraeli's influence seems to have been more of rhetoric than of reality, as it sometimes did when he was in office. I have heard people describe themselves as "Disraelian Conservatives", but have never known quite what they meant. A priortism in the buttonhole does not change history.

When I hear people calling themselves "Thatcherites", I know, and they know, exactly what they mean. The concept of Thatcherism started in the provinces, with the English tradition of common sense. That tradition Margaret Thatcher owes to her Grantham roots, but it is similar to a worldwide tradition of those who, from an early age, have had to face the realities of life. Margaret Thatcher's Grantham was the same sort of kindergarten of realism as Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia, Samuel Johnson's Lichfield (a city not all that far from Grantham) or even, as Lee Kuan Yew's Singapore. The lesson is that strength and virtue survive but weakness does not.

This is the heart of Thatcherism. She has always enjoyed the trust of those who think that while most politicians do not understand the realities of life, she does. Margaret Thatcher's individualism has not been based on the desire of the privileged to hang on to their advantages, but on the shared recognition of those who start with few

material advantages that they must make their own lives to survive. The headings of "Beginning Again" outline some of her themes: "Bruges or Brussels", "New World Disorder", "Virtue's Rewards", "The Free Enterprise Revolution", "Her criticism of Europe's high tax, high regulation, high subsidy system", and her belief that "the popular mood is moving away from remote bureaucracies and towards recovering historically rooted local and national identities" reflects current opinion inside and well outside the Conservative Party. People will certainly differ on the details. I think that she herself underestimates the importance of the historic identity of the Scottish nation, and suspect that market forces will themselves move us away from near universal home ownership, and back towards renting.

Several important groups now see in Thatcherism the only future for Britain, as well as the necessary future for the Conservative Party. When one talks to Conservative students, they seem to be predominantly Thatcherite, to the point at which they can embarrass the benevolent officials of Central Office; that is also true of the best of the younger active Tories. In the constituencies, while many people wish to be loyal to Major and to avoid open criticism, Margaret Thatcher's doctrine of national independence and reliance on the individual, and her desire to cut expenditure and taxes, are supported as obvious common sense by some older Tories claim to have believed in them when she was still a chemistry student. These Thatcherite ideas also have a strong following on the Tory back benches, particularly among the season-ticket-holders on the parliamentary omnibus.

The whole world economy is pushing the most reluctant foreign parties towards similar Thatcherite conclusions. Even the American Democrats and the Spanish Socialists have come to recognise that their national welfare states are in danger of swallowing their national economies, to the great cost of the taxpayer but with little benefit to the poor. The new information age, which was once expected to be dominated by bureaucrats with their supercomputers, is discovering that the cybernetic citizen will be hard to tax and impossible to regulate. The theorists of this new age are more likely to be found quoting Hayek than Keynes, let alone Marx. The new age will strengthen the individual citizen and weaken the power of the State, particularly of the superstates, such as the United States and the proposed European Union. The European state is the only nation to be seen before it was born.

Without thinking of her as infallible — Margaret Thatcher is too much of a Protestant to wish to be thought of as a pope — we can now recognise that her basic ideas are well-rooted, popular and proving correct. Much of what she achieved as Prime Minister — including lower taxes, deregulation and privatisation — has been followed by other countries. Much of it is accepted now by the Labour Party itself. Much of what she still advocates seems appropriate to the next phase of world development.

Given their popularity and their modern relevance, these Thatcherite ideas are likely to dominate the next phase of British politics. It is still possible that the Conservatives, in another of their customary panics, will make Michael Heseltine their leader for the next election, but anyone chosen after the election will have to represent these ideas: those of the Left-centre have been exploded among young and old, even if some of the baby-boomers in their middle age still believe in them. People want to be more free, not less free. They want to pay lower taxes, not higher taxes. They are prepared to look after themselves to an increasing extent. They want Britain to be independent, not reduced to the status of one of the German *länder*. Any politician who pushes against these trends will fail: any Conservative who tries to do so will fail ignominiously.

Parties need a big popular idea. Liberalism was such an idea in the 19th century, and a good one. Democratic socialism was such an idea in the 20th; it was strong enough to create the Labour Party but turned out to be a mistake, if an honourable one. Thatcherism is the idea of national and personal independence; it provides the Tories with what they need for the next century.

William Rees-Mogg

Where's Hezza's hat?

Michael Heseltine is still itching to be PM, writes Julian Critchley

I s Michael Heseltine destined to be always the bridesmaid, never the wedding bride? I think I can hear wedding bells. Heseltine shows evidence of having regained not simply his health, but his ambition. He is boxing clever. Having successfully distanced himself from the Scott report, he has now instituted an inquiry into BMARC which could prove difficult for Jonathan Aitken.

After the loss of approximately 2,000 local council seats in England and Wales, to say nothing of Scotland, the Tory party is in a state of disarray. John Major's Government is sagging under the weight of its good intentions.

Michael Heseltine demonstrates an unrivalled competence, not only in the House, but on television and the radio. He can defend the indefensible and sell the defensible with equal skill. When he is on his feet no Tory need sweat at the palms. He has clearly grown in authority. Yet not by word or gesture has he showed the slightest disloyalty to John Major. His cards are where they should be, close to his chest.

Which is more than can be said for many. John Major is a good man beset with misfortune, who has striven long for the success that has evaded him since the election in 1992.

He was "invented" by the Tory Right in November 1990, which was unable to stomach Michael Heseltine, who had, with a little help from Geoffrey Howe, destroyed Mrs Thatcher. Heseltine — or so it was argued by the Right — would split the constituency parties in the country, many of which would never forgive him for his act of marriage. Douglas Hurd was a toff, and a left-wing toff to boot. Who then was there for the Tory right to turn to other than Major?

John Major has not been helped by his predecessor, who with her customary disloyalty, has been engaged in an overt and well-publicised campaign, to weaken the Prime Minister. There are clearly not on speaking terms. But when it comes to a successor to Major, Margaret takes care to bite her tongue. She knows only too well that Peter Lilley does not count for a row of beans, and that Michael Portillo can rely only upon the Falangist vote; the winner in any election for the Conservative Party leader looks very much like Michael Heseltine.

Major, rose without trace from the whips' office to the Treasury via an undistinguished stint at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was in the happy position of being a man without a past. He too had taken care to keep his cards close to his chest; he was invariably courteous to all and was considered by the rumour of the Thatcher loyalists as "one of us". They thought that Hezza was too big for his boots, Douglas too grand, and that only John bore Mrs Thatcher's imprimatur. In the event, Major was walked into Downing Street as the party's lowest common denominator.

Two things can be said about today's Conservative Party. The Right no longer consists of grandees, serving as an extension of their social obligations, but of opportunists in search of a leader. The remaining "toffs" are usually to be found among the older Tories, suckled by Harold Macmillan and raised by Ted Heath. They are still loyal to Major, but were things to worsen in the months to come they could reach the conclusion that Michael is the only man big enough to save Government and party from a defeat of 1905 proportions.

Meanwhile Heseltine, whom Anthony Howard has described as "the biggest beast in the Tory jungle", has been content to bide his time. He has been happy to serve as "President" of the Board of Trade, survived a minor heart attack, and has been busily engaged in the reforestation of the Oxfordshire/Northington border. I will not go so far as to say that he has fiddled while Rome has burnt; but it has not gone unnoticed that he has cautiously been cultivating the Right of the party while retaining his hold over the Left. Is his hat still in the ring? I very much think it is.

So where does he stand on the issue that divides the party — Europe? Michael is no federalist (what ever that might mean), but he has no wish to see the European Union become a Franco-German condominium. He is, unlike Mrs Thatcher, no nationalist.

He would like Britain to be "at the heart of Europe". He knows that we cannot isolate ourselves from our friends, abandon the special relationship, confront the dangers of the Russian Federation and compete with the countries of the Pacific Rim — if we retreat behind the White Cliffs of Dover. Which is just as well if his ambition has been rekindled.

The author is Conservative MP for Aldershot.

Bull in a...

LONDON'S foremost antiques fair has an empty stand for the first time since it started in 1934. At last night's charity gala evening of The Grosvenor House Art & Antiques Fair, the Duchess of York and other important guests were whisked past the unsightly gap among stands groaning with priceless treasures.

The space should have been filled by the American-based Chinese Porcelain Company, which sells antiques in New York for hundreds of thousands of dollars per item. But Chinese Porcelain had decided to take everything away, thereby depriving big walleys such as the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and Lord and Lady Howard de Walden from examining their wares.

Yesterday, Chinese Porcelain was still angry: "We are very disappointed. The cabinets have been authenticated by some of the best Asian experts," said Khalil Rizk, the owner. "I had heard that the Grosvenor House Fair was a hotbed of difficulties and now I know for myself." A spokesman was diplomatic: "We still hope it can be sorted out."

● Lord Brabourne and his wife, Countess Mountbatten of Burma.



"It's ridiculous to suggest he knew — he's a Tory MP"

are offering a reward for the return of a lost Labrador answering to the name of Buzz. The pet, bought two weeks ago for their son Timothy Knatchbull, went missing from the family home near Ashford, Kent.

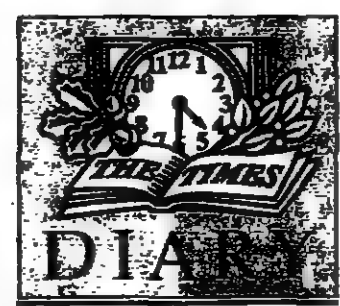
Arm in arm

BESIDES Jonathan Aitken, there is another senior Tory politician linked to the arms manufacturers BMARC. In her new book, *The Path to Power*, Baroness Thatcher fondly remembers the Grantham-based firm's heroic war effort. So important to the town was "British Marcs", as locals called it, that in the 1942 by-election, the general manager, Denis Kendall, beat the Conservative candidate, Sir Arthur Longmore. "To our great surprise, he won by 367 votes," writes Thatcher — adding self-effacingly that her Oxford studies prevented her campaigning for the Tories.

Catastrophe

A NEW LONDON show starring an Argentinian tango troupe got its heartache in a twist at the weekend when a couple of dancers were caught smuggling their cat through Heathrow.

London theatre producers arriving at the airport to greet the Ar-



gentians — whose show *Forever Tango* hits the Strand Theatre next week — were met by burly immigration men and tearful dancers. "We have paralled up the cat and sent it back," said an official. The cat's owners, known as Carlos Borquez and Inés, were too distraught to speak of the ordeal. But Inés at least managed to telephone her mother to ask her to collect the cat from the airport on its return.

Clueless

LONDON UNDERGROUND yesterday announced that it is to start work again on the renovation of Mornington Crescent station. Radio 4 aficionados who tune into Humphrey Lyttelton's *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* are on edge. The flagship of the programme is the ludicrous game Mornington

Crescent, with rules that no one can fathom. The regular panel — Willie Rushton, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Barry Cryer and Graeme Garden — are studying the implications. "It probably means we can use the Shepperton rules again, but that will depend," says Brooke-Taylor. "Nonsense," retorts Rushton. "The implications aren't far-reaching. He forgets that we already have escalators. I've been his partner for many many years. No wonder we keep losing."

Pop peer

LORD GOWRIE in black tie is a common enough sight stalking the foyers of the world's great opera houses. Little is known, however, about the music the wild-haired peer likes to listen to when less formally dressed.

Next month's *BBC Music Magazine* sheds light on the matter: "A routine of mine these days is to play a Beethoven string quartet or sonata while I take a bath," he says. "When I get out and there are all those gurgling noises, I might play Credocean Clearwater Revival. My tastes are rather eclectic, a weakness, no doubt, but the great thing in middle age is you can say 'To hell with it' and not try to impress anybody I've been known to play Roy Orbison when nobody is



Gowrie: eclectic tastes

looking. The bath is rather a good place to listen to newer music, too."

● The owner of Castle Howard in Yorkshire was boasting of his tie at Krug's party in London on Tuesday night. "It's decorated with hippos taking baths in champagne," said the Hon. Simon Howard, who lists wine among his recreations in Debutty's. The neckpiece got a thumbs-up from the Krug family, who ensured Howard's glass was never less than half-full.

P.H.S

JAVICO 1500



ON TARGET

Clarke's new monetary framework is sensible and pragmatic

For one of the Cabinet's few genuine extroverts, Kenneth Clarke seems to be making a virtue of his lack of showmanship. In both his Budgets Mr Clarke made a point of failing to pull any magic rabbits out of his hat. In last night's Mansion House speech he opted for the same workmanlike approach. He delivered the information on policy that had to be transmitted, told a few bad jokes and promptly sat down.

His main announcement — that the Government was simply extending its present inflation targets beyond the lifetime of the present Parliament — may have sounded like a non-event. But if appropriately read, it should help to relieve the tension that has developed between the Treasury and the Bank of England and has arguably done considerable damage to confidence in the business community.

Until last night's announcement, the Bank was trying to act on a narrow mandate left over from Norman Lamont. This was to get inflation (excluding mortgage interest payments) below 2.5 per cent at the end of the current Parliament, paying no regard to the state of the economic cycle or to where inflation might be heading in the months beyond the first quarter of 1997. The oddity of this arrangement was illustrated by the unnecessary row over interest rates last month.

Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, argued that interest rates had to be raised because the Bank's projections indicated a temporary blip in inflation to 3 per cent, resulting from the recent weakness of sterling, in the first few months of 1997. Even though the Bank's own forecasts suggested that inflation was likely to drop to below 2.5 per cent later in 1997, Mr George felt duty-bound to demand an immediate increase in rates. Mr Clarke promptly turned him down, acting on a broader vision

of the economy's (and perhaps the Government's) long-term wellbeing.

Under the subtly altered framework introduced by Mr Clarke yesterday, such clashes should become less likely. Mr Clarke says he remains as determined to keep inflation below 2.5 per cent into the indefinite future. But he has removed the reference to any particular date. He has also explicitly recognised that a margin of error is bound to exist around any forecast. This is how Mr Clarke reconciles his aim, which is to "achieve underlying inflation of 2.5 per cent or less" with the apparently contradictory promise a few minutes later that "inflation will remain in a range of 1 to 4 per cent".

The plan is to set interest rates at a level that is reasonably likely to keep inflation below 2.5 per cent in the medium-term, but not to be forced into panic action when inflation actually fluctuates in the 1 to 4 per cent range. In practice, the Chancellor is trying to reproduce a version of the policy used by the Bundesbank, here quite sensibly. The Bundesbank's stated aim is to keep inflation below 2 per cent. This does not mean that it always raises interest rates when inflation is above that level; rather it sets policy to try to bring inflation back below 2 per cent over a two to three-year period. It also recognises that inflation is cyclical, bound to rise above its long-term average in booms and to fall below it after recessions.

Mr Clarke says his system will actually be slightly tougher than Germany's, which has only managed to get inflation below 2.5 per cent in five of the last 25 years. Whether or not British Governments prove more consistent than the Bundesbank in controlling inflation remains to be seen. But the last few years experience has shown that a bet that Britain could do better than Germany on inflation is not necessarily a losing bet.

A TEST FOR FRANCE

Big bang diplomacy plays better at home than abroad

Jacques Chirac has ensured that his world debut as France's President will not go unmarked. France's "irrevocable" decision to conduct eight more nuclear tests in the South Pacific, ending a three-year moratorium which has been respected by all nuclear states except China, has raised a storm from New Zealand to Canada. France's allies will note with some exasperation that there is more politics than military calculation in the timing of this decision, made on the eve of his departure for Washington, the UN and the summit in Halifax. The French public, never strongly opposed to nuclear tests conducted on the other side of the world, will find a satisfyingly Gaullist flavour in this assertion of sovereign rights.

M Chirac has sought to head off international complaints that he has put at risk the conclusion of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) next year. He has promised that these tests will be France's last, that France will then close the Mururoa test-site, that they are consistent with the undertaking in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to exercise "utmost restraint" in testing and that they are technically vital to enable France to adhere to the CTBT with safety. He also asserts that the tests will cause no environmental damage, and has invited experts to verify his assertion.

All these claims should be carefully probed. It is common ground that because nuclear weapons deteriorate, some form of safety testing is vital. Britain, America and Russia rely on laboratory simulation, but France's hydronuclear testing technology is only now being developed and will not be available until 2002. It would not be as straightforward as it sounds for France to use its allies' technology, even if France were prepared to compromise its 30-year insis-

tence on complete nuclear self-reliance. Yet none of this suffices to prove the French case that it cannot ensure the safety of its nuclear arsenal without a last round of tests.

The French claim that these are needed to calibrate the new nuclear laboratory instruments, but have not explained what eight more detonations would add to data gathered from some 200 previous tests. A more likely explanation would be that France has new weapons systems which it needs to test — or that it urgently needs to identify problems with existing stocks.

Although France could prove to have set a precedent for others to argue that they too have the right to conduct "final" tests before signing a test ban treaty, the damage ought to be containable. If France is genuinely committed to a global ban, these eight tests are unlikely to derail negotiations. Governments are now convinced that a global test ban is necessary to halt nuclear proliferation; new nuclear powers would need to test their capacity to deliver weapons.

This strategic argument has outweighed military concerns that laboratory simulation is not yet sufficiently foolproof to guarantee the safety of existing weapons. But the Pentagon has resumed the offensive in Washington, arguing for thresholds to be built into the treaty to permit testing of up to 500 tons of nuclear explosive yield — as against around 40 tons in laboratory simulations — and it has allies in the French ministry of defence. A "threshold" treaty would not only be unacceptable to most governments, but would create a loophole that would render it close to pointless. At Halifax, France's allies should seek Mr Chirac's unequivocal assurance that this is not the hidden agenda behind France's apparently firm commitment to a total ban.

BETTER STATUTES

The Law Commission reflects the needs of a modern society

An unsung body has just completed 30 years of reform and improvement to the country's sprawling body of law. Much of our law has been unimpeachable, but the Law Commission, established in 1965, was charged with the "simplification and modernisation" of those legal rules which were unfair, out of date and uncertain. As its Chairman has written recently, the Commission's mission — and its "only *raison d'être*" — is to make the law "simpler, fairer and cheaper to use". Staffed always by lawyers of accomplishment, it has performed this role with great diligence and not a little panache.

The Commission's virtues are worth recounting: in addition to its technical expertise, it is unencumbered by political affiliation. Its members can, also, engage in consultation with academics, representatives of interest groups and ordinary citizens. Parliament, which is still the highest law-making authority in the land, has learnt to rely to an important extent on the well-rounded recommendations of the Law Commission — and often to enact them into law.

Among those Acts which owe their origins to reports by the Commission, one finds the 1971 Animals Act, the 1990 Computer Misuse Act and the 1992 Carriage of Goods by Sea Act. These, and others, have by Sea Act. These, and others, have enhanced our personal and commercial well-being. Two others, the 1977 Unfair Contract Terms Act and the 1984 Occupiers' Liability Act, deserve particular citation. Before the enactment of the first, a fair-ground owner, for example, could exclude

by notice all liability for injury suffered by visitors. The Act also ended the casual exploitation of consumers: a buyer of a defective radio, say, was no longer barred for suing the seller simply because he had signed the "smallprint".

Under the second Act, owners of land can no longer exclude liability for injury to innocent trespassers. Previously, a child who wandered into an unfenced building site and then fell down a deep pit had no claim for damages as he was, quite simply, a trespasser. On the Commission's recommendations, such factors as the age and identity of the trespasser, and the seriousness of the risk, led to the imposition of a new duty of care on "occupiers" of land.

The Commission has unveiled its latest programme, focusing, *inter alia*, on illegal transactions and the unfairness of some limitation periods. In an example of the first, a man agrees to pay a friend £1000 if he will give false evidence in his favour at a trial. The friend testifies, and the man is acquitted: can the former sue the latter successfully for the sum? In the second case, a woman has an extension built to her home in 1988; it starts to crack in 1995 because the foundations were poor. She wants to sue the builder for using defective materials but her action is barred six years after the house was built: is this acceptable, even though she could not reasonably have known of the defects by then? The Law Commission has undertaken to examine these and other questions. It will do so, no doubt, with its customary wisdom.

Issues at stake on a single currency

From Mr Michael Fabricant, MP for Mid Staffordshire (Conservative)

Sir, The Prime Minister was right when he met members of the Fresh Start Group (report, June 14), to reiterate his caution about entering a single currency. European monetary union would have a detrimental effect on our future capability to forge new alliances and to take sovereign action.

For regardless of the debate as to whether or not the European Union is becoming more centralist and federal, monetary union would result in Britain losing effective control of its foreign reserves, which would have to be pooled with those of other states.

So whether or not the European Union will become a United States of Europe is almost academic. It is becoming clear that if Britain were to join a single currency we would find it as difficult to secede from the EU should we ever wish to do so or have any room for independent manoeuvre as, say, any state of the United States, all of which share a common currency and none of which holds exchange reserves.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FABRICANT,
House of Commons,
June 14.

From Professor Emeritus Antony Allott

Sir, It would be the utmost folly for Britain voluntarily to lock itself out and — worse — throw away the key, when it will surely later be forced to seek monetary union.

Let us set up a parallel, optional Euro-currency now. Sellers of goods and services, lenders, savers and wage-earners would surely insist on the security which it would offer. Good money would drive out the weak. Who in Britain would not have been happy to have had their savings a generation ago denominated in marks?

As to what to call it, we could go back to the common currency of the Roman Empire (precursor of the EU) and call it the "solid". This poses no problems in pronunciation and has a reassuring ring. My German dictionary translates the German adjective as "substantial, sterling, sound, reliable, solvent, steady". Exactly!

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY ALLOTT,
Sorbroke Mill,
Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire,
June 14.

From Viscount Watkinson, CH

Sir, Those who advocate a single currency from the simplistic position that it "must happen" might carry more conviction if they addressed some practical problems.

Is, in fact, a single currency required when the pound, franc and mark could continue as now alongside the ecu?

The new European Bank will have to set a common interest rate for the EU but to what degree would it be subject to the derogation powers in the Maastricht treaty? Would a national government with its own economic difficulties be able to make use of these important powers to meet its parliamentary difficulties?

What would be the precise position of the Bank of England and other national banks in their financial operations outside the EU, a particular problem for Britain with its Commonwealth responsibilities and world trading position?

These are only a few of the issues that must be resolved if the European Bank is to meet the needs of its customers. It needs not a political directive but a businesslike working plan.

Meantime Britain's opt-out is entirely justified and may well set an example to others.

Yours sincerely,

WATKINSON,

Tyma House, Shore Road,

Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex,

June 14.

From Mr Don Montague

Sir, Who benefits from variable exchange rates apart from currency speculators, banks, bureaux de change and hotels sometimes charging exorbitant commission for exchanging one currency for another?

As for politicians raving about loss of sovereignty, how many really believe that their hands are not effectively tied by the power of the operators in international currency markets?

The tourist, the man in the street, exporters and importers would all be better served by fixed exchange rates or a common European currency. People would like to be able to travel, buy and sell in any country of the European Union without having to pay fines to the money-changers or worry about the next devaluation, the next currency surcharge on their package holidays.

Yours faithfully,
DON MONTAGUE,
Les Arbres,
Sertes-et-Mongryard,
24500 Eymet, France,
June 13.

Business letters, page 29

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Seeking safer routes for cyclists

From Mr Piers Nicholson

Sir, Your leader on pedal power (June 8) will be welcomed by commuting cyclists. But you are wrong to dismiss the "extra metre at the side of the road" in favour of "dedicated (off-road) routes".

My commute from Epsom to the Oval is 14 miles and takes 55 minutes: the 15mph average is about twice as fast as a car can do in the rush hour. The main difficulty, and cause of danger, in this journey is the lines of slow-moving cars, or often stationary ones which are parked higgledy-piggledy.

It is this which causes cyclists to "weave among cars", and it is really unnecessary, since a simple advisory (dotted line) cycle lane of anything more than two feet leaves ample space for a cyclist to ride where they are safest — close to the kerb.

Building dedicated cycle lanes, particularly off-road ones, takes a long time and costs huge sums of money. Painting two-foot advisory cycle lanes on all main roads which already have waiting restrictions could be done within a year and at a fraction of the cost.

It would also have the big advantage that it would be on routes which people habitually use for getting from one place to another — and commuting cyclists naturally want to use the direct, well-graded, fast main roads in preference to other routes.

Yours sincerely,
PIERS NICHOLSON,
9 Lynnwood Avenue, Epsom, Surrey,
June 8.

From Mr John Urwin

Sir, By offering cyclists dedicated safe routes, as suggested in your editorial, the way is open for a radical design of weatherproof, streamlined bicycles.

Sin, the Church and modern life

From the Secretary, Board for Social Responsibility, Church of England General Synod

Sir, Janet Daley, in her column of June 8, ascribes motives and assumptions to the authors of *Something to Celebrate* [and see letters, June 10] which are without foundation. "Its real intention", she confidently asserts, "was to scrap the commitment of the Anglican Church to traditional marriage". How does she square that intention with the explicit reaffirmation by the working party, appointed by this board, of our commitment to marriage? Let the report speak for itself.

The Christian practice of lifelong, monogamous marriage lies at the heart of the Church's understanding of how the love of God is made manifest in the sexual companionship of a man and a woman. The increasing popularity of cohabitation, among Christians and non-Christians, is no reason to modify this belief. On the contrary, it is an opportunity and a challenge to the Church to articulate its doctrine of marriage in ways so compelling, and to engage in a practice of marriage so life-enhancing, that the institution of marriage remains its centrality.

Will uncomfortable realities disappear if we chant easy phrases about "absolute moral conviction" and "transcendent truths and values"? I doubt it. I prefer the report's honest attempt to explore ways in which the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ can strengthen families, in all their diversity, today.

I have no doubt that thousands of people inside and outside the Church will find *Something to Celebrate* full of helpful suggestions for perceiving the will of God for families within our nation today. Is it not possible for the Church to be given support — even by communists — as it struggles to help people strengthen their marriages and families in all the challenges and difficulties of life today?

Yours faithfully,

DAVID SKIDMORE,

Secretary, Board for Social

Responsibility, Church of England

General Synod,

Church House,

Great Smith Street, SW1,

June 12.

From the Earl of Longford

Sir, In my nearly ninety years I have not found any noticeable change in official Christian teaching as to what is right and what is wrong. Sex outside marriage (whether heterosexual or homosexual) is still against the rule as are many graver offences.

But we recall St Augustine's instruc-

Support for quangos

From Mr P. A. C. Baldwin

Sir, As I prepare to retire after many years serving the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Radio Authority can I put in a word in support of quangos? I have been greatly impressed by the care taken by government to select high-grade people drawn from all walks of life. Similarly, it has been rewarding to watch the diligence and enthusiasm displayed by the members once appointed. At no time has any political bias been manifest.

Quangos are easy targets for criticism but my experience, involving some ten or so bodies, has been that they serve our country well.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BALDWIN
(Chief Executive),
The Radio Authority,
14 Great Queen Street, WC2.

Jurassics of 48 such as myself, who can only manage 23 miles in an hour on a conventional machine, would then be able to commute a 15-mile journey to work at a leisurely 30 miles an hour.

But, heaven forbid, car sales, car-related employment, pollution, energy consumption, children's asthma, admissions to hospitals, immobile geriatrics and male testosterone would all decline; and we don't want that, do we?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN URWIN,
1 Newlands Close East,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire,
June 9.

From Mr P. J. Walsh

Sir, I have to inform Mr Steven Norris, the junior Transport Minister (report, June 8), that here in Boston cyclists have all the concessions available they require.

They are free to cycle the wrong way down one-way streets, across pedestrian crossings and on the pavement. Add this to cycling without lights at night and free town centre parking. Is there anything else we can offer them?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. WALSH,
Coolalass, Berlington Road,
Butterwick, Boston, Lincolnshire,
June 8.

From Ms Judith Weingarten

Sir, If the Government puts cycling "at the centre of our strategy", as it has put Britain "at the heart of Europe", may I suggest that cyclists switch to automobiles immediately.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH WEINGARTEN,
St Michel, F-34530 Le Caylar,
Hérault, France.

ITC's judgment on Channel 4 series

From the Chief Executive of Channel Four Television

Sir, Lord Arman's letter (June 12) about the Independent Television Commission's judgments on the Channel 4 series *The Word* was colourfully worded, but sadly it yielded neither accuracy nor insight.

Whilst pleased to dismiss me as "an insolent jackanapes", he failed to grasp my central point about the subjectivity of the ITC's recent ruling. I simply stated that another of the statutory regulators, the Broadcasting Standards Council, deemed one of the three items in question acceptable for broadcast. I fail to see how it can be "ignorant" to observe that this difference of opinion highlights the subjectivity of the judgments involved.

Perhaps Lord Arman saw none of the programmes against which he and others have fulminated: understandably so, as they were targeted at a rather different audience. It would be a pity if his fine mind were to reach its conclusions on the basis of partial press reports, or to be seduced by the currently fashionable sophistry which condemns Channel 4's full and comprehensive programme service on opinions of a single late-night series.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRADE,
Chief Executive,
Channel Four Television,
124 Horseferry Road, SW1,
June 14.

Rugby tackled

From the President of the Girls' Schools Association

Sir, The rebellion of the Rugby boys may have been "without recourse to violence and the militia" (rough tradition of the old school), June 14. It was, however, an extraordinary display of immaturity, with older boys helping to hide younger ones from attendance at chapel, in protest against the appointment of a head girl.

If this is the level of male leadership in the sixth form, Rugby certainly needed a head girl. These same boys may well be working for women managers in the future. They should learn to face competition like men.

Yours faithfully,
PENELOPE A. PENNEY,
President,
Girls' Schools Association,
Haberdashers' Aske's School
for Girls,
Aldenham Road,
Elstree, Hertfordshire,
June 14.

Teachers' pensions

From Mr Rowland Brown

Sir, In May, after the public drubbing in the local elections, Mr John Major promised that the Conservatives would become a more listening party. This does not yet appear to be the case judging by the announcement of the Government of its intention to privatise the administration of teachers' pensions (report, June 8) in spite of the universal opposition to this by all the parties whom the Government contacted or from whom it received responses in the consultation process conducted this spring.

Of the 131 responding bodies, only one of the employing bodies out of 25 replying was in favour and all the bodies representing teachers in schools were against. In fact only three responses were in favour out of the 131 received.

The teachers and the education service have expressed strong confidence to the Teachers' Pension Agency and rejected outright the move to privatise it. Just as the public wants the Royal Mail to stay in the public sector, so the education service and the teachers want their pension scheme to be administered publicly by a safe pair of hands.

Has John Major genuinely the will to be a more listening prime minister?

Yours etc,
ROWLAND P. BROWN
(Legal Consultant,
Secondary Heads Association),
Wildwood, Manor Road, Penn,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
June 12.

Evening the odds

From Mr I. D. Lindsay

Sir, Given the overwhelming advantage of playing 18½-stone wingers in rugby football international matches, and the paucity of such material in some countries now participating in the Rugby World Cup, would the game not benefit from a fundamental change of rules whereby teams were selected not on a numerical basis, but rather on the basis of equal height and weight?

In this way 15 Tongans, Western Samoans or all Blacks could be balanced by 20 or even 30 Japanese or others capable of running the 100 metres in 11 seconds. This could produce a new and more visually attractive game than that played at present and would add to the real point of all sports which, as we know, is now to entertain the spectators, particularly those placed in front of television sets.

I remain your obedient servant,
I. D. LINDSAY
(Secretary General),
World Energy Council,
34 St James's Street, SW1,
June 12.

Brent Spar disposal

From Dr Werner Weighlofer

Sir, More than anything else, the imminent dumping of Shell's Brent Spar platform in the North Atlantic (News in Brief, later editions, June 14) is a symbol for the cynical exploitation of the natural resources of our planet.

What chance can there be for essential ecological measures which will actually require large investments when there isn't even the political will to demand an environmentally friendly disposal of an installation which has surely created immense revenue for its operators?

The weight of the sea will weigh more heavily on our conscience than on the sunken Brent Spar.

Yours sincerely,
WERNER WEIGHLOFER,
32 Clevedon Drive, Glasgow,
June 14.

Discounts in Europe

TOMORROW sees the start of Inter-Continental hotel's Summer Spectacular programme which offers discounts of 50 per cent off room rates all week at 47 of its hotels in Europe, including breakfast, a city information pack and frequent flyer points with participating airlines. Details: 0345 581 444.

RIVAL hotelier Hilton International has just launched its "weekend's only" package covering 35 hotels in Europe until the end of October. Prices range from £74 a night for a double room at the Barcelona Hilton or £95 a night at the newly renovated Rome Cavalieri Hilton. Details: 0345 581 595.

LONDON'S Regent Hotel, next to Marylebone Station, has reportedly been sold for an estimated £72 million to the Thai-based Landmark Group which last year acquired the Royal Lancaster Hotel. Landmark is expected to cancel the management contract with the Four Seasons/Regent Hotel Group and market the hotel itself as the Landmark of London.

BUSINESS travellers can now check in by telephone up to 30 minutes before arrival at any of 87 Moat House or County Hotels in the UK, and pick up their key at a special desk. Details: 01708 730 522.

ROOM SERVICE

LEADING hotels in London have summer promotions in their restaurants. The Savoy Group has a £12 lunch or dinner at five of its restaurants, including the Causerie at Claridge's, from July 31 until the end of August (Claridge's: 0171-629 8860). Today The Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly starts its summer menu at £28 per person, including service, in the hotel's outdoor Italian Garden (Ritz: 0171-493 8181).

TIMES readers booking at 19 Meridian and Fort Grand Hotels in Europe can get discounts of up to 50 per cent if they mention this offer while booking, from July 1 to August 31. These include the Fort Village in Sardinia and the Meridian in Limassol. Details: 0345 404040.

COMPUSERVE users can access details of all Hyatt hotels worldwide, including interactive communications with hotel concierges, by typing "Go Hyatt". From today, Choice International Hotels is also allowing direct reservation access on the Internet, with an introductory 10 per cent discount. Choice 2001 can be accessed via HTTP://WWW.Hotel-choice.com.

DAVID CHURCHILL

Goodwood's owner has set out to promote the cultural delights of a seaside cathedral city

Duke will lure tourists to Chichester

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE DUKE of Richmond and Gordon, one of Britain's wealthiest peers, is leading a campaign to turn the Sussex cathedral city of Chichester into a tourist attraction to rival Bath, York, Chester and Salisbury.

Last year the 65-year-old Duke resigned as Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex after revelations of a hot-blooded affair with a travel agent.

Now, it seems, he has shrugged off his problems and has thrown himself into promoting the city and county with which his family has been connected for 300 years. The city, which has 21,000 inhabitants, has held out against pressure to capitalise on tourism longer than almost anywhere else in Britain. When the British Tourist Authority declared 1995 the Year of Festival of Arts and Culture, local businessmen predicted that Chichester would again be left behind.

But they underestimated the drive and charisma of the Duke. Using experience he gained 21 years ago, when he helped to launch a festival celebrating the cathedral's 900th anniversary, he mustered dozens of local organisations, peppered them with ideas and suggestions, and persuaded P&O to sponsor the two-week-long "Chichester Festivities" starting on July 2.

Based around Roman and medieval

developments, Chichester has a Georgian town centre. Among its attractions are the harbour, Fishbourne Roman Palace, the Tangmere Aviation Museum and the Chichester Festival Theatre.

The Duke makes no apologies for blatantly using his position to promote the city. "It seems odd to me, in this modern age, but noblesse oblige and the power of the aristocracy to make people take notice still do exist," he said this week. "I thought that I may as well make use of this fact."

About 60 organisations turned up to a meeting he called at his home, Goodwood House, and made him chairman of the Chichester City of Culture committee. He has since written to hundreds of organisations around the country, pleading for help in publicising Chichester's attractions.

The third Duke started it all when he built Goodwood House, he said. The house is open to visitors and there is a regular flow of events in the grounds. "He took us into tourism and we are in the business now, like it or not. But we certainly don't want mass tourism. We want people who have money to spend on culture, the theatre, music and the arts, and who are prepared to spend a night in a hotel at the same time."

Last year the Duke — the owner of



The Duke: "It seems odd but people still take notice of the aristocracy"

Goodwood race course, Chancellor of Sussex University and president of Sussex County Cricket Club — issued a public apology to his wife and family for his four-year affair with Jessica Matasovic, an American, who had

accused him of deserting her. He and the Duchess, who have five children, recently moved out of Goodwood House to a smaller property on the 12,000-acre estate to enable their grandson, Charles, to be installed.

Ski tour company heads for Sweden

By GRAHAM DUFFILL

CRYSTAL Holidays, Britain's largest ski tour operator, has added Sweden to its winter programme, which now covers 113 resorts in 11 countries.

Norway was introduced to the brochure last winter and 1,000 skiers went to Gellø and Hemnesdal. The company believes Scandinavia will appeal to customers who find the big ski resorts of the Alps too busy and commercial.

The Scandinavians are also credited with being genuinely hospitable and friendly, and Crystal says clients enjoy the cultural change and the different après-ski activities available, like dog-sledding.

Crystal is adding Voss to its Norwegian programme, and will run a Sunday charter service into Daga, which is 30 minutes from Gellø and one-and-a-half hours from Hemnesdal. Voss is reached by scheduled flight to Stockholm and a connecting 45 minute flight. It has 90km of marked runs, the majority classified as intermediate, and although it is low at just over 1,000 meters, the snowline begins much lower. With free lift passes for children under 11, the resort could be ideal for families. Half-board prices in the four-star Hotel Areghagen for seven days in February and March cost around £720. Self-catering apartments start from around £400.

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Heathrow's system of take-off and landing slots is working against Britain's regional business travellers

Business travellers who do not live and work within easy reach of Heathrow are increasingly being forced to fly to Paris, Amsterdam or Frankfurt to catch international flights. Britain's regional airlines are increasingly denied access to the world's most popular international airport.

As both Heathrow and Gatwick head for what the British Air Transport Association describes as "gridlock", there is increasing concern that much of British business could be locked out of the country's premier hub.

The root of the problem lies in the concept of "grandfather"

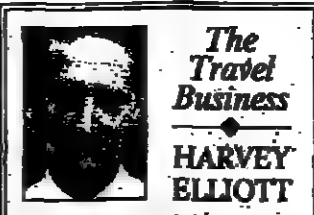
Regions denied access to Heathrow

rights, which give any airline which landed or took off at a particular time last year the right to do so this year too. The "slot" so granted is not, however, linked to any particular destination. So any airline which flew, for example, to Liverpool from Heathrow last year is free to use that slot to fly to Rome or New York, if it so wishes and has the necessary permits. And these routes are more profitable.

The effect on the businessman is potentially catastrophic. Instead of

being able to catch a flight at his local airport and make a quick and easy transfer to almost anywhere in the world, he must now get to Heathrow by car or train, or fly to an airport on the Continent.

The Government is aware of the problem and has asked airlines to tell them what they think should be done about slot allocation. But there is little chance of Britain following the French and designating a certain number of slots as "public service obligations" which



The Travel Business HARVEY ELLIOTT

for this summer show the British trend all too clearly. The airline won the right to fly four times a day to Paris. Only if there were needed four new "slots" from Heathrow. It could not obtain any new ones so it simply axed its Belfast services and substituted flights to Paris.

Two years earlier the airline began services to Frankfurt and increased flights to Brussels. That year, services from Liverpool and East Midlands were dropped.

British Midland are not alone and the trend has been going on for many years. So why can't the regions provide direct services rather than operating through Heathrow? Answer: it would not be cost-effective. There may be only one passenger who wants to fly from Belfast to Helsinki, for example.

There will, however, be another who wants to fly to Athens, and others with urgent business in Chicago, or Seoul, or elsewhere.

All Britain's regional business travellers, in short, are at risk from these "grandfather's" rights.

Heathrow is Britain's hub. It must give priority not just to Japanese businessmen wanting to change planes before flying on to South Africa, but also to business travellers from Northern Ireland or from Newcastle desperate to find new markets around the world.

The time has come to set aside a certain number of slots for domestic travel — or at least to offer any domestic slot vacated by a major international airline to a smaller competitor who is prepared to take it on.

Britons' cars robbed on French motorail

By STEVE KEENAN

FRENCH Railways yesterday said it would step up security on overnight motorail services after British holidaymakers were robbed as they slept.

When an overnight train from Nice pulled into Calais station on Tuesday morning, the rail company discovered that four cars had been broken into. The locks had been forced.

Victims included the House of Cards actor Ian Richardson, who lost a credit card and house keys. Suitcases, wine, champagne and cameras were taken from other cars.

The gang even had time to sit and eat crisps in the cars while they rifled the foreign-registered vehicles during a stop on the nine-hour journey from the south of France.

"We don't know where it happened, probably at a stop," said Jacques le Ster, UK commercial manager for French Railways. Trains stop for various reasons, including clearing of toilets, restocking or technical problems.

Mr le Ster said each overnight service carries two or three French Railways security staff — the equivalent of British Transport police — who patrol the cars. But he promised that more staff would be deployed along the route to monitor the carriers.

"We will reinforce security at night stops but we obviously can't put guards on the car carriers as they are moving at 140kph. Besides, it is not easy to get onto the car carriers without steps."

The latest attack on motorail trains carrying international holidaymakers is a variation of previous incidents, when passengers have been robbed in their beds as they slept.

"It was very annoying because I had to have all my house locks changed," Mr Richardson said. "But I suppose we should think ourselves lucky that they didn't use any gas on us."

"We had a problem with with passenger carriages a few years ago when international trains were targeted but this has been resolved. It has been quiet on this front," Mr le Ster said.

"This doesn't seem to be an organised gang but more like youths. We thought the problems were finished."



A slave convoy in the Sudan: tourism officials are planning to develop attractions along the old slave routes in an attempt to win more tourists.

Africa looks to slave trade

By DAVID CHURCHILL

THE historical African slave trade is to be made the focus of an attempt by international tourism officials to encourage tourists to visit the African continent. The World Tourism Organisation, which is backed by 125 governments including the UK's, is planning the development of tourism along the so-called "slave route" to try to reverse the 5 per cent decline, to 18.3 million, in international tourism arrivals to Africa last year.

The slave route project will include advertising campaigns in selected western

countries to remind tourists, according to the WTO, of the "biggest single tragedy in the history of man on account of its scope and duration". Monuments to the slave trade, such as the forts and castles on the coast of Ghana and Senegal, are due to be restored and museums are to be given special exhibitions.

The slave trade was an historical fact that cannot be denied, but we are not aiming for revenge," says Ousmane N'Diaye, the WTO's regional representative for Africa. "We hope that the slave route tourism project can be a starting point for those who

wish to learn about African history, and this includes Africans."

Proposals for the slave route project were agreed at a meeting of tourism officials of 12 African nations held in Durban, South Africa. The WTO said the project would reveal the "deep-rooted causes and methods of the slave trade together with the cultural consequences".

But British travel companies yesterday showed little enthusiasm for encouraging the slave route tourist project. "Tourists want to go to Africa for the scenery and the sun, rather than to be reminded of

the slave era," says a leading tour operator.

Although tourist numbers to Africa overall were down 5 per cent last year, this was mainly caused by the troubles in Algeria and Morocco. The drop was partially balanced by increases in tourism to other countries in the continent, such as South Africa, which experienced a 10.4 per cent increase, and Tunisia, which saw a more modest 5.4 per cent growth.

South Africa, however, is expected to become the most popular African country for tourists this year, following the current worldwide public-

ity created by the Rugby World Cup being held there.

Nigel Hards, Thomas Cook's retail director says there has already been a sharp increase in bookings to South Africa this year and he anticipates a 30 per cent growth by the year's end.

South Africa's growth as a business and leisure destination was reflected by the InterContinental hotel chain's recent decision to become the first western hotel to return to the country. Working with the Southern Sun hotel group, InterContinental plans to open hotels in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Kenya and Goa sell out for Christmas

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

WHILE tour operators may struggle to shift an estimated three million unsold holidays this summer, they are having no trouble selling winter packages.

Many hotels and guesthouses at the most popular beach resorts in Goa and Kenya have sold out already for the Christmas period, and operators predict Egypt will make a low-key comeback.

New destinations like the Comoros islands in the Indian ocean, Zanzibar island off Tanzania, and the beaches and shopping centres of Dubai, are catering for the tastes of sun-worshippers who in happier times might have headed for the Gambia.

"We can't get enough rooms in Goa to satisfy demand," says Suresh Sofat of the Indian specialists, Somak.

"It is a particularly popular choice for British people and offers both beach and temples. The season starts in October and Christmas is virtually sold out."

Goa, which in its heyday was said to rival Lisbon in its splendour, is now becoming a major long-haul target for the budget family holiday market.

Somak (0181 423 3000) has just introduced a direct flight from Manchester with prices starting at £269 per person for seven nights' bed and breakfast.

Thomson has added a weekly flight from Manchester airport to exploit the growing demand for Goa.

The company is currently offering seven nights in a three-star hotel from £429 per person, based on two sharing.

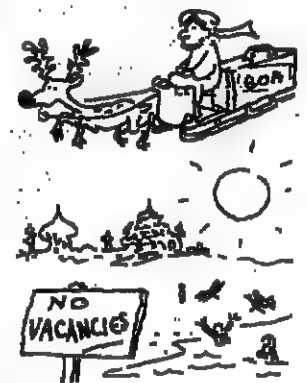
Some in the industry, though, doubt that Goa can sustain a huge increase in package tourists. The number of tourists visiting Goa increased from 10,000 in 1972 to

well over a million in the early Nineties. The first charter tourists arrived in 1987 and with the growth in tourist hotels much of the money generated by the industry went out of the country.

The environmental pressure group Tourism Concern recommends tourists to think carefully before travelling to the region and to try to stay in locally owned guest houses rather than hotels.

Meanwhile, Kenya is also increasingly in demand. Somak's bookings on their weekly flights from Gatwick have picked up considerably, says Mr Sofat.

Somak's new additions to its winter programme, Zanzibar and the Comoros islands, are selling well, as is Egypt, back from the wilderness of bad



publicity after a series of attacks on tourists.

Mr Sofat says a weekly Air 2000 charter to Luxor now flies out full, with passengers having paid an average £399 inclusive of flights and a seven-night cruise. Thomson has added an extra flight for Egypt, programme and Hayes and Jarvis (0181 748 5050) say Egypt sales are returning after a difficult period.

Air fares take off

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AIR fares from Britain to much of the Continent and North America are going up sharply as airlines anticipate the end of the recession. A survey published by American Express reveals that compared with this time last year, discount economy fares to four key European destinations — Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Frankfurt — have risen by 14 per cent, 8 per cent, 14 per cent and 13 per cent respectively.

Discount fares to Chicago, Los Angeles and New York have risen even faster, with return fares to the three most popular American cities going up by 13 per cent, 28 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

The increases have been introduced on selected routes where demand has grown,

after two years of static or even falling scheduled air fares.

Kyle Davis, head of the American Express Management Unit, says: "For the past three years, carriers have been vying for passengers and market share. The index seems to indicate that we are seeing them focus more on revenue and yield and less on market share."

"The rise in the UK-US fares can be attributed to very strong demand for business travel on these routes. The disparity in price between economy and business class fares is much greater in the UK than in other European countries."

Many business customers now insist that their staff travel economy class to America from Britain. "It will be

interesting to monitor whether this gap continues to close," Mr Davis says.

The Air Transport Users' Council (ATUC) confirms the upward trend in its annual report, published this week, but says well over 70 per cent of passengers now travel on discounted fares, and bargains can still be found on many routes.

The London-based organisation, set up to represent airline passengers, says that more competition and better facilities, rather than tighter regulation, are the best ways to prevent the upward spiral.

The American Express survey shows that although fares from Britain are now going up much faster than inflation, in the rest of Europe fares are largely steady.

Wasted hours

By ALEX BERNARDY

Bargain-hunters should be sure to examine the small print. For in an attempt to keep prices to a minimum, tour operators often introduce conditions, especially with night flights, which result in a gassy return journey.

"Night flights are a well-established way of operators maximising the use of their planes and thereby keeping the costs down," explains Richard Hedges of charter carrier Britannia Airways. They may offer savings of up to £30 on an average holiday.

The problem is that guests usually have to vacate hotel rooms by midday. "If your return flight is not until, say, four the next morning, you could find yourself with nowhere to stay and kicking around with your bags for 16

tiring and expensive hours before take-off. Not only that, but you may find that you have only had a six-night stay when you have paid for seven," explains Patricia Yates of the Consumer Association.

Allison Black made the mistake of booking a night flight. "I booked a week in Greece for about £250 and had a wonderful time," she says. But come her return, she had to vacate her room at noon for a 2am flight. With delays, she didn't get home until the next afternoon. "By this time I was shattered, disappointed and furious. I had to take a day's holiday to recover from my holiday," she estimates that all the extra costs, including loss of earnings, amounted to about £120, making her night flight a very false economy.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JUNE 15 1995

Clarke takes tough line on inflation

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE confounded City sceptics of his anti-inflationary resolve, reconfirming the tough target of driving inflation to 2.5 per cent or less by the end of the current Parliament and making that aim permanent.

In a written parliamentary answer yesterday afternoon, the Chancellor restated the current inflation target range of 1 to 4 per cent, and the aim of getting inflation into the lower half of that range by the spring of 1997, and, as many had expected, committed the Government to achieving 2.5 per cent or less into the foreseeable future.

The City had become increasingly concerned that the Chancellor was indulging in a more relaxed interpretation of this framework than Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. The Bank has made clear that its advice to

the Chancellor is based on getting inflation into the lower half of its target band, but there were rising suspicions in the City that the Chancellor would be content to see it below 4 per cent.

Treasury officials yesterday emphasised that retaining the 1 to 4 per cent target band did not mean that the Chancellor would be happy if inflation were in the top half of that range. They said that the 2.5 per cent or less aim would drive policy decisions — and crucially interest rate decisions — and that the 1 to 4 per cent band would simply allow for inevitable variations over the course of the business cycle.

Doubts about his commitment to the harder-to-hit part of the target were raised after Mr Clarke said in an interview that he would regard 3 per cent inflation at the end of

Fears for business as pattern on jobless changes

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday gave warning, as the number of people out of work and claiming benefit dropped by only 10,000, that the slowdown in the rate of decline of unemployment indicated Britain's need to improve its competitiveness.

Although ministers said the further fall in seasonally adjusted unemployment indicated continuing economic growth, concern was widespread about what seems to be a trend in the rate at which unemployment is falling.

The 10,000 fall in unemployment in May was less than Whitehall and the City had expected. It was the smallest fall since one of 19,000 in January last year, and took adjusted unemployment to 2,317,800, an unchanged 8.3 per cent.

Although the decline was the 21st consecutive monthly fall and took unemployment to its lowest level since June 1991, the monthly average drop for the past three

months is 16,300, against 29,000 over the past 12.

The CBI welcomed the drop, but said: "The decline in the rate of fall points up the continuing need to improve our competitiveness."

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said that the figures showed that "recovery in the labour market is in danger of stalling".

Employer-based figures showed a reverse in recent job growth, with employment falling by 14,000 in the first quarter of this year.

Harriet Harman, Shadow Employment Secretary, said that this was "a worrying sign at a time when the recovery should be creating jobs".

Michael Portillo, Employment Secretary, said that the range of labour market figures confirmed that "Britain is now in its fourth year of consecutive growth".

Average earnings increases remained at 3.5 per cent.

Repossessions 'set to rise'

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Government will face further pressure to provide help for the ailing housing market after the publication today of an authoritative survey showing the number of homes being repossessed is set to rise in the next few months.

More than 90 per cent of mortgage lenders participating in an annual survey by ROOF Briefing, an independent journal published by Shelter, the housing charity, expect their own repossessions

to rise or at best remain constant. The survey says that 45,804 homes, housing at least 110,000 people, were repossessed in the year to March 31. Between 1993 and 1994, repossessions fell 20 per cent. But in the year to March 31, the fall had slowed to 6 per cent.

Since 1990, more than 292,000 homes have been repossessed, affecting more than 700,000 people. Tim Dwelly, the editor of ROOF Briefing, said: "These figures back up



Colette Bowe is seeing the powers of the City watchdog challenged in the High Court

ICS funds under threat

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS), the ultimate safety for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud, is within weeks of running out of money.

Thousands of investors who are due to receive compensation face delays and uncertainty over when they will receive money. The Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for firms that sell direct to the public, has been forced by pending legal actions to delay collecting £15.8 million from its members. The decision will be announced in the PIA's annual report, out tomorrow.

The ICS is funded on a pay-as-you-go basis. The PIA, headed by Colette Bowe, which met on Tuesday, took the decision to postpone levying its members until the outcome of a legal challenge to its powers has been settled. Sun Life, the insurer, has applied to the High Court for a judicial review of the power of City watchdogs to levy contributions on members to support the scheme.

The ICS had hoped to fall back on a £50 million line of credit from City merchant banks, led by National Westminster. It is understood the banks are reluctant to activate the loan until the courts have ruled on the challenge. The ICS has a £10 million overdraft facility with the Royal Bank of Scotland, but this too could be affected by the PIA's decision.

The ICS has paid out more than £80 million to 8,000 investors since 1988. Last week alone, it sent out compensation cheques totalling £1 million to 63 investors.

The PIA, said last night: "We cannot comment before our members have received a copy of the annual report." The ICS said: "We are extremely concerned and are hoping for a rapid solution to the funding problem."

New chief for Laura Ashley

LAURA ASHLEY, the clothing and furnishings group, has ended speculation over its immediate future with the announcement that Ann Iverson, an American turnaround specialist, has been appointed chief executive (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The group has been without a chief executive since Jim Maxmin resigned in April 1994 and departed with a £1.2 million pay-off.

Ms Iverson, 51, has been a non-executive director at the retailer since last July. She has a retail background, including Bloomingdale's in America, chief executive at Mothercare, and a main board director at Storehouse.

For the past year, she has been chief executive at Kay-Bee Toys, a 1,200-store retailer. Her remuneration is heavily performance related and depends on her success in lifting gross margins from the current 2 per cent.

Shipyard director sues receiver for £442,500 notice pay

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER director of Swan Hunter, the Tyneside shipbuilder, has issued a writ against Price Waterhouse, the yard's receivers, claiming £442,500 in lieu of notice. Ken Chapman, one of four shareholder directors of Swan Hunter, is also claiming for loss of pension contributions and car. Another two have signalled their intention to claim. They were on the same salary and the same four-year contract as Mr Chapman.

Union representatives are also negotiating with receivers on behalf of around 2,000 other former employees. Claims are also expected from ten directors of the subsidiary that ran the yard. One of the ten has already issued a writ claiming £100,000.

The move follows a controversial House of Lords ruling in the case of Paramount Airways in March which insolvency practitioners have said will open the floodgates for compensation claims for hundreds of millions of pounds against them.

The ruling, on the rights of employees of failed companies, established that administrators and receivers could become liable for obligations, such as redundancy payments, to employees whose services they had retained for more than 14 days. In effect, they had adopted their contracts of employment.

Ed James, one of the receivers, said Price Waterhouse was working with unions in order to try to resolve the claims from around 2,000 non-managerial staff.

The receivers were appointed in May 1993 and worked with the four main directors to try to find a buyer. The yard was bought by THC Holdings (UK) for £4 million on Monday, a week before the contents were to be auctioned.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FT-SE 100	5238.8	(-8.2)
Yield	4.15%	
FT-SE All share	1639.17	(-3.34)
Nikkei	14899.48	(+80.81)
New York		
Dow Jones	4489.29	(-15.22)
S&P Composite	834.11	(-1.94)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	112 3/4%	(113 1/4%)
Yield	5.57%	(5.50%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	106 1/2	(107 1/2)
STERLING		
New York	1.8091	(1.8085)
London	1.8087	(1.8091)
DM	2.2508	(2.2422)
FF	7.8930	(7.8770)
Sfr	1.8520	(1.8480)
Yen	135.65	(134.53)
S index	84.7	(84.3)
DOLLAR		
London	1.4008	(1.4082)
DM	4.9130	(4.9435)
Sfr	1.1539	(1.1612)
Yen	84.37	(84.51)
S index	88.3	(88.0)
Tokyo close Yen	84.91	
NORTH USA CH.		
Sept 15-day (Sep)	\$17.20	(\$17.30)
GOLD		
London close	\$388.05	(\$387.30)
* denotes midday trading price		

NFC job cuts

Sir Christopher Bland, the new chairman of NFC, announced hundreds of jobs are expected to go as the new management team attempts to restore profitability with the start of a massive cost-cutting exercise. Hefty provisions pushed the transport group to a first-half loss.

Report 27, Tempus 28

Graham bid

Graham Group is set to become the country's second-largest builders' merchant after a £55.4 million recommended offer for Erith.

Report 30, Tempus 28

Terms have been settled for the Airbus military subsidiary

Alenia to be an equal partner in AMC

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ALENIA, the Italian state aerospace group, will be an equal equity partner in a new military aircraft associate company set up by Airbus Industrie to develop a heavy transport plane for sale to air forces around the world.

Terms for Alenia's participation with the four core Airbus companies were settled at breakfast negotiations, as revealed exclusively in *The Times* yesterday. Agreement on the creation of an

subsidiary of the successful civil jet group to manage one of Europe's biggest collaborative defence programmes will be seen as a breakthrough at the Ministry of Defence in London.

The Government announced its intention last December to join the programme, provided development and assembly of the aircraft are managed commercially by Airbus, when it placed a £1 billion order for 25 smaller C130-J transports from Lockheed Martin of America.

With Airbus now moving into profit, none of the Airbus partners is willing

to dilute their holdings in the Toulouse-based civil airliner group, *Aérospatiale* of France and *Daimler-Benz* of Germany each have 37.8 per cent, while British Aerospace has 20 per cent and Casa of Spain 4.6 per cent.

In Airbus Military Company (AMC), however, Alenia has been allowed to participate as a full partner and the equity stakes have been calculated to give each of the five companies an effective interest of 20 per cent.

That is based upon the expectation that Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain will each order 40 to 50 air-

craft. Airbus Industrie will hold the biggest interest, 28 per cent of the equity. The holdings of the others will be adjusted to balance their sway over the Airbus stake.

Casa will have about 19 per cent, Alenia 20 per cent and BAE about 14.5 per cent of the new company. *Aérospatiale* and *Dassault* will each hold 10 per cent of the shares. Creation of the AMC is a serious challenge for Lockheed Martin, which has dominated sales of tactical transports with its C130 Hercules, just relaunched in a new version, the C130J.

Which environmental business won the National Energy Award in 1994?

For the full picture, see this paper on Friday

THE MANSION HOUSE SPEECHES

Chancellor promises 'to keep inflation in its box'

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, used the opportunity of his annual Mansion House address to commit the Government to a permanent aim of driving inflation down to 2.5 per cent or less and said that this would put Britain on course to achieve the best performance on inflation for over half a century, and one of the best in Europe.

Mr Clarke said that his economic aim was lasting prosperity and secure jobs and that the Government had deliberately set itself medium and long-term targets. He said: "I have set my goal of Britain eventually having the strongest economy in Europe. The Prime Minister has spoken of doubling living standards over the next 25 years. I believe both are practicable."

But the Chancellor added that achieving these goals would require consistency, courage and common sense of a very high order and that Britain must not this time

throw away its chances of success in a populist inflationary binge.

He said that the free market reforms of the past 16 years had transformed the British economy and that competent delivery of stable economic conditions would ensure that the benefit of these reforms will be "realised in full throughout the 1990s". Mr Clarke claimed that the security of "middle England" was one of the major political issues of our time and said that, although the full benefits to the consumer of the Government's policies had not yet fed through, they would.

Mr Clarke said people should not fear that he would throw away the gains made on inflation and public borrowing in a politically motivated dash-for-growth. He said people looked to the Government to deliver stability and that delivering a stable economic environment with low inflation stretching into the future

was not just good economics but good politics, too.

The Chancellor said that the public finances were now on a secure footing and that his aim was to continue to bring the public sector borrowing requirement back towards balance over the medium term. He said that he would only cut taxes when it "is in the interests of economy and when I can afford to do so".

He warned Cabinet colleagues that cutting taxes depended on their ability to contain departmental spending and that the public spending round just coming up would be as tight as previous ones. He said his long-term ambition was to reduce general Government debt to below 40 per cent of GDP.

Mr Clarke said the inflation record over the past three years bore testimony to the success of the current monetary framework, which was one of the most open and transparent in the world.

He reconfirmed the Government's current 1 to 4 per cent target band and its commitment to driving inflation to 2.5 per cent or below by the end of the current parliament. He also extended the latter goal into the foreseeable future.

He said: "The Government's decision to set a target, and then to set policy to deliver it, has led to the best performance on inflation this country has seen since the early 1960s. We now have the best chance for a generation to lock in these gains, and to ensure inflation remains permanently low."

The Chancellor closed his speech by saying: "I do not want a one-year growth wonder. I am going to keep inflation in its box and keep a firm grip on the public finances. It is because I am going to do so that the British economy can expect to enjoy steady, low inflation growth, not just this year, but next year, the year after and for many years to come."



Breakthrough: Eddie George said he saw an opportunity to achieve permanent stability

Governor pledges support for Clarke

BRITAIN has a real opportunity to make a "decisive breakthrough" to permanent stability with all that means for long-term investment and economic activity, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said (Colin Narborough writes).

However, he said that although inflationary expectations had been lowered, they "need nevertheless to fall further to be consistent with our objectives".

The great progress in the past two years towards establishing a more stable economic environment could be seen too in market expectations that interest rates will peak in the current upswing at barely half their peak in earlier cycles during the past 15 years.

Mr George pledged that the Bank would give all the support it could to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in achieving the goal of permanently low inflation, underlining that he expected the Bank's policy advice to be judged by reference to the inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less.

On cost pressures, he said that they had, until now, been substantially contained by tight control over domestic labour costs and by a reduction in profit margins, particularly on domestic sales.

"The important concern for policy is to ensure that we do not now begin to see them [cost pressures] feeding through more rapidly and setting off the all too familiar spiral of domestic inflation," he said.

He said there were signs that the adverse tide of higher international commodity prices and associated rises in input costs to industry might now be beginning to turn.

But he said that short-term pressure on output prices, and hence retail prices, nevertheless remained strong and was likely to be aggravated by the weakening of sterling earlier this year.

"Now there is not, in fact, such that domestic monetary policy can do directly to protect us from these unwelcome developments," he said, suggesting that the Bank sees no need for any urgent need to raise interest rates.

He said the authorities could be "reasonably confident" that economic growth had moderated, but uncertainty remained over the pace of expansion.

Praise for numerous initiatives

THE Lord Mayor reminded guests of the Corporation of London's longstanding and close connections with the trades in the City, although he admitted that times have changed and many trades have disappeared.

He said: "Small manufacturing firms have been replaced. There is now a huge services industry covering shipping, insurance and finance, characterised by the diverse nature of its markets, its skills and its internationality, and the wide range of services that support it."

He praised a number of initiatives including the City Research Project, the financial law panel, the City disputes panel, as well as support for London First and London First Centre and the new City Network for East-West trade. "In all these areas, the Corporation has indicated its willingness to set aside resources to assist the City's economic development," he said.

The Lord Mayor reiterated the importance to "work tirelessly" for an improved transport system for London.

No divine right at Stock Exchange

JOHN Kemp-Welch, chairman of the London Stock Exchange, said the exchange had a long and notable history, but conceded that it had no divine right to its leading international position (Philip Pangalos writes).

He said the past decade had seen dramatic change, with a rise in growth and vitality of markets. The exchange had had to redefine its role and rebuild its standing to ensure a continuation of a strong Stock Exchange within a strong City of London.

Mr Kemp-Welch remained firmly of the view that a

strong, central market continues to be in the best interests of London and of the economy. "We have to justify that position in terms of competitiveness. We recognise this and we understand the demands for greater competition. But it should be remembered that there is already fierce competition within our domestic market, we operate within a highly competitive international environment."

He said a fast-evolving market had needed wider consultation with investors, issuers and practitioners, to ensure best interests were represented. The past year alone had seen the benefits of investment in the Sequence trading system, "giving London the most technologically advanced and sophisticated trading and information platforms", he said.

It had devised the alternative investment market for smaller and growing companies — starting trading on Monday, to succeed the unlisted securities market and Rule 4.2 matched bargains.

Mr Kemp-Welch said the move to rolling settlement and shorter settlement continues, bringing London closer to other big centres. It had "taken a number of significant steps to ensure our markets remain orderly," while a "fresh look" at Yellow Book requirements had led to new ideas to cut the regulatory burden.

Pennington, page 27

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□ Tweedie's latest compromise should win through □ Monetary targets loosened □ No free lunch at Skipton

Goodwill exhausted

□ SIR David Tweedie has finally managed to devise a solution to the goodwill accounting dilemma that will delight few but, crucially, will also appal few. This alone is something of a triumph. Trying to devise a rule for goodwill — the excess of purchase price over the value of tangible assets — has been a long-running saga, because none would be consistent with all other accounting rules, let alone common sense.

In principle, accounting treatment should therefore try to minimise this troublesome goodwill. It should encourage acquirers to value fixed assets at economic value, and to identify valuable intangible assets such as patents, brand names or even, if they dared, monopoly power. Such assets should be valued like any other and any company could establish them, whether they were bought or home-grown. Any remaining goodwill should then be written off as a premium of dubious worth. Mergers of people businesses could be dealt with separately by merger accounting, a technique recently ruled out for all but exceptional cases. Balance sheets might then mean something again to people who read them, thinking that they might represent the true capital employed by the company.

In practice, such niceties were

bound to be rejected, not least because Sir David and his colleagues at the Accounting Standards Board do not trust companies and their auditors. They fear preparers of accounts would exploit any loophole opened by differences of accounting treatment. Any standard, the board argues "must avoid creating possibilities for accounting arbitrage, whereby the results of an acquirer could be shown in a more or less favourable light merely by the classification of an expenditure as an intangible asset or as goodwill". Anyone who remembers why the board was set up must allow that.

Instead, Sir David has modified his preferred option among six offered in the board's decried discussion paper of December 1993. Goodwill must either be depreciated annually, over not more than 20 years, or be subjected to an annual valuation based on cash flows earned. One vital change is to allow intangible assets to be valued separately from goodwill, though they would be subject to the same annual check to see if their value had been "impaired". The other

is to simplify valuations drastically and smoothen them over a longer period.

Since the proposed standard is far from perfect, and will not attract consensus, the vital test is acceptability. This will be rehearsed at a public meeting in the autumn.

Critics may point out that a pragmatic approach should not, as it does, conflict with international accounting standards and rely on the "true and fair view" to override European directives. But these both look wrongheaded. And most will surely want to dispose of this tiresome matter at last.

Flexibility is next to canniness

□ THE Chancellor's Mansion House speech was not one for monetary purists, but purity is hardly what they would expect from a Chancellor who said that 3 per cent inflation, come election time, would be a triumph. Those who wish to look for messages of re-assurance, that



the Chancellor's anti-inflation credentials remain intact and unsullied, will find them just as easily. The objective of 2.5 per cent inflation, or less, remains as it was. Even better, it is extended indefinitely, as required now that the "medium-term" extends beyond the next election.

The intriguing elements in Mr Clarke's Mansion House speech are, however, those of the dog that did not bark. First, there has been no narrowing of the target range for inflation, for instance to 0-3 per cent. Second, the Chancellor has kept to RPIX (retail inflation excluding mortgage interest) rather than moving to RPI, which excludes indirect taxes as well.

Both these decisions favour sensible flexibility. They say that the 1-4 per cent range permitted range of inflation is not a staging post on the way to something less. It is a permanent buffer to absorb risk. One of these risks is that the Chancellor will raise prices by increasing indirect taxes. Another is that a few economic signals point to higher growth or inflation than most, like the first quarter GDP figure.

later revised downwards. We are still learning to walk towards stable prices. This is no time to gallop.

Lenders fail to find shelter in jobs cover

□ OF ALL the sticking plasters that the Government is considering applying to the housing market, the one that ministers most expect to adhere, it is being whispered, is the effective privatisation of income support for mortgage payers, and they believe the road to this laudibly Thatcherite destination lies through Skipton.

The ham-fisted attempt to limit income support from October has only increased the fear of unemployment as the main factor holding back the market. The hope is that sufficient mortgage lenders will follow Skipton Building Society's lead last week in throwing in free unemployment cover as a perk to attract borrowers to make it universal. That hope looks misplaced on three grounds. First, there is no sign that borrowers will be

trampled in the rush to offer them free insurance. Other societies are looking at it, but any such moves will be limited, perhaps only to incentives to catch the first-time buyer.

Second, the Skipton's free lunch is, like most free lunches, nothing of the sort. It will not cover every borrower, while the Skipton's ranking at the bottom of mortgage value tables suggests the society has a fair margin of fat that can be used to absorb the additional cost. Finally, the costs of, in effect, compulsory insurance will either be passed on to the borrower as a hidden levy, or they will require lenders to be even more careful who they lend to. The sluggish homes market needs even slower disbursement of mortgages about as badly as it needs a further cut in mortgage tax relief.

Exchanging words

□ THE chairman of the Stock Exchange was not pleased by official approval for Tradeport, the latest attempt to cream off big share trades. "A strong central market continues to be in the best interests of London and the economy," he said in an otherwise amiable Mansion House speech. Germany is ditching fragmented exchanges for that reason, but neither will deter British competition ideologues.

Jobs on the line as NFC unveils £200,000 loss

By PATRICIA TEHAN

NFC, the transport group, cannot afford any more strategy, Sir Christopher Bland, its new chairman, said as he unveiled a slump from £50.7 million profits to a £200,000 loss in the half year to April 15.

Hundreds of jobs are expected to go as the management attempts to restore profitability with the start of a massive cost-cutting exercise.

Sir Christopher and Gerry Murphy, the newly appointed chief executive, have decided on a clean sweep. The loss was brought about by a £35 million exceptional restructuring provision to enable NFC to close

loss-making operations such as the vehicle distribution arm, to cut costs, and to write off surplus properties and other non-performing assets.

The cost-cutting programme, which started this year, would inevitably lead to job cuts, Sir Christopher said. The firm employs about 34,000 people, and the cuts would be across the businesses and at all levels, Mr Murphy said.

The provision is in addition to £21.9 million brought forward at the start of the year, making £56.9 million in total. NFC's strategy has been, ex-

amined in detail by the previous management and by teams of consultants. Mr Murphy said: "Few companies have been more analysed than NFC."

The firm has now identified where it needs to make changes to reverse its falling profits trend. "There will be no navel-gazing going on. It is time to get on and act. We would like to make NFC slim and low cost, with a slim, transparent management structure," Mr Murphy said.

NFC has been hit by eroding margins on distribution contracts with grocers, losses

in Frigoscandia, its German operation, adverse exchange rates that hit US profits, and a poor performance in its moving services business, mainly Pickfords in the UK.

In spite of the loss for the first half and a 1p loss per share after exceptional items, NFC has held the second interim dividend payment at 1.5p, payable on October 4.

Sir Christopher acknowledged that the £263 million rights issue in December 1993 to clear debts and fund expansion was arguably a mistake.

Tempos, page 28

TLG holders raise £86m in shares sale

By SARAH BAGNALL

TWO leading shareholders in TLG are raising £86.3 million through the sale of more than half their holdings in the lighting group which was floated last November.

Thorn EMI, the former owner of TLG, and Investcorp, the Bahrain investment bank, are selling 57.5 million shares in TLG at 150p a share. TLG was bought out by management from Thorn EMI in 1993 and floated at 115p a share.

Thorn and Investcorp sold fewer shares than they hoped because of unfavourable market conditions.

Last month, both share-

holders announced their intention to sell part of their holdings, news that sent the shares down 12p to 149p. Yesterday TLG's shares rose 7p to 158p.

Investcorp is selling 50.2 million shares for a total of £75.3 million while Thorn is selling 7.3 million shares for £11 million.

The sale will leave Investcorp with a 19.2 per cent holding and Thorn with 2.8 per cent. Both companies have agreed not to sell any more of their shares until TLG has released its results for the six-month period to September 30.

FKI cash call raises hopes of acquisition

By CARL MORTSHED

FKI, the engineering group, launched a £136 million rights issue and raised hopes of another large acquisition. Shares in the group slipped 5p on the announcement of a one-for-four share issue at 125p, in spite of news that the company had raised profits by 29 per cent to £67.6 million in the year to March 31.

The cash call was no surprise to the market, which had expected the company to raise funds in March when it paid \$90 million to acquire Amdura, a lifting equipment company. Jeff Whalley, chairman of FKI, said: "What we are talking about is being able to do deals in the £70 million to £100 million range. We

have three to four deals under review."

FKI's gearing at the year-end was 27 per cent, but the acquisition of Amdura had pushed the ratio up to 70 per cent. Profits from material handling grew 21 per cent to £21 million, but profits at the UK engineering business halved to £8 million.

Bob Beeston, chief executive, said FKI was capable of growing at a more rapid pace. A UK acquisition would be favoured due to FKI's advance corporation tax problem: 80 per cent of profits are earned in North America. The dividend is 4.6p, up 24 per cent.

Tempos, page 28

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transmission, exhaust systems and body-work. And thus to reduce the noise output of Mercedes-Benz trucks and vans. It's all part of a long-term programme to reduce the environmental impact of commercial vehicles. Today's trucks now have oxidation catalysts to reduce diesel engine emissions. They transport goods with greater fuel economy and thus efficiency. And because noise is an equally important type of pollution, a Mercedes-Benz of 1995 is twelve times quieter than a comparable truck of the early 1970s.

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MICHAEL CLARK

Government owned investment company, has sold 60.97 million shares in Hong Kong Telecom, which is 57 per cent owned by C&W. CITIC Pacific still holds 12 per cent of HK Telecom and has no intention of reducing its holding.

It was another bad day for shareholders in Tadpole Technology as the price slumped 20p to a low of 55p, with almost one million shares changing hands. In November, the price was 40p. Since then, there has been several profit warnings, news of further losses and at least one boardroom war.

government approval to bid for the company, providing it sold off its Mercury telecom subsidiary. AT&T has been tipped as a buyer for Mercury.

A profits warning by one of its US rivals left ICI 21p lower at 76-p. **United News & Media**, owner of the *Daily Express*, was another dull performer, down 8p. **British Airways** (BA) was up 10p. **BZV** turned bearish. Word is that newspaper costs have risen

after agreeing terms of a bid for rival **Graham Group**, down 4p at 178p. **Graham**, which was demerged from BTR last year, is offering three of its own shares for every five in Erit. The deal values Eritish at £55.4 million, or 109p a share. There is a cash alternative of 5p.

Monday Ship saw an early lull eroded to finish just 3p better on the day at 131p after

TESCO: LARGE LINE OF STOCK OVERHANGS MARKET

The graph displays two data series over a 12-month period from June to June. The Y-axis represents price in pence (p), ranging from 180 to 320. The X-axis shows the months from Jun to Jun.

- Share price (Tesco):** Represented by a thick black line. It starts at approximately 225p in June, rises to a peak of about 285p in September, dips to 260p in October, then generally trends upwards with fluctuations, reaching a high of nearly 310p in May before settling around 295p in June.
- FT all-share index (rebased):** Represented by a thinner line. It starts at approximately 215p in June, rises steadily to about 245p in September, dips to 235p in October, and then continues a more gradual upward trend, ending at approximately 265p in June.

Source: *Financial Times*

admitting that trading conditions in the US were continuing to decline. Like-for-like sales across the Atlantic fell 8 per cent in the first three months of the year, offsetting a 2 per cent improvement in Britain.

Laura Ashley firmed up to 81p after revealing its new chief executive. She is Ann Iverson, who left Mothercare last year to join Melville, the US retailer. The post has been vacant since last July after the resignation of Sir Martin. Meanwhile, Sir Bernard Ashley, the founder, took the opportunity to dispel suggestions that he plans to sell his 34 per cent stake.

There was little for shareholders of NIP, the logistics group, to cheer after the group produced second-quarter figures showing it plunging into the red. The new management has revealed further restructuring charges of \$35 million, bringing the total for the year, so far, to \$56.9 million. Shares finished 5¢ cheaper at 164p.

♣ **GILT-EDGED** opened promisingly enough on the back of firmer US Treasury bonds overnight. They received a further boost from the latest unemployment and average earnings numbers.

But things took a turn for the worst later in the day after the Bundesbank gave warning that inflationary pressures were still present in the German economy. This was interpreted to mean that any further cuts in German interest rates may be some way off. This provided the signal for the sellers to move in, leaving prices lower across the yield curve.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt touched £107½, before ending the session £13/32 lower at £106½/16 as a total of 70,000 contracts were completed.	Kilnaran Alkanon	7240 (+20p)
Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished ½ lower at £99½/32, while in 3½s Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £2/10 off at £101.	BSSG Gp	6140 (+12p)
□ NEW YORK: Shares remained depressed at midday with a mixture of weaker bonds, triple witching and disappointing profit forecasts from Rohm & Haas Co and Humana keeping buyers at	Wearley	4230 (+5p)
	Wiley	3280 (+24p)
	TLG	1590 (+8p)
	Sebe	6340 (+10p)
	Synthon	1730 (+8p)
	Treat	3090 (+22p)
	Huntleigh Tech	6430 (+25p)
	Sothebys	8250 (+7p)
	Conoco Wilson	8200 (+2p)
	LSMS	2100 (+8p)
	C Salvesen	2600 (+5p)
	FALLS:	
	SG Warburg	7510 (-6p)
	Balfour	2170 (-11p)
	Berkley Gp	3740 (-6p)
	ICI	7640 (+21p)
	Laporte	7420 (-5p)
	Imperial	5040 (-8p)
	Dalsa	5040 (-8p)
	Dacorum Tech	5800 (-20p)

The Dow Jones industrial average shed 15.22 points at 4,469.29 with declining shares leading advances by 11 to eight. (Reuters)

Glymed	34 3/4 (-5p)
GKN	62 1/2 (-7p)
Goldborough	154 (-11p)
Kewell Sys	29 1/2 (-7p)
BAA	47 1/4 (-4p)

Closing Prices Page 31

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	+469.20 (+15.22)
S&P Composite	538.11 (+1.94)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14660.49 (+408.1)
Hong Kong:	
Hong Seng	9366.77 (+261.56)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	430.57 (+1.28)
Sydney:	
AO	1966.5 (+12.4)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	21,28.02 (+12.91)
Singapore:	
Strait	2138.23 (Stable)
Brussels:	
General	7509.79 (+23.13)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1893.65 (+39.14)
Zurich:	
SIX Gen	661.30 (+3.03)

Brit Aero Cap Uts p/p	701	+1
Finsbury Worldwide	101	...
Gradius Group (122)	126	...
Gus Carter (80)	87	...
International Energy	112	...
Langdens Foods (3)	3*	...
Narwest Irish Smr (100)	94	...
Narwest Irish Smr Wts	30	...
Nynex CableComms	137*	+1
Oryx India	690	...
Oryx India Wts	250	...
Silk Industries (125)	140	...

Daniels (S) n/p (34)	20	...
David Brown n/p (205)	26	...
Laser-Scan n/p (10)	14	...
Waste Recycling n/p (80)	26	-1

ROSES:	
Inish Perm	318p (+7p)
Kleinwort Benson	724p (+23p)
BSS Gp	614p (+12p)
Horley	425p (+8p)
Mitel	329p (+24p)
T.L.G.	159p (+8p)
Sebe	694p (+10p)
Syntone	173p (+8p)
Trealt	309p (+22p)
Huntleigh Tec	643p (+25p)
Softbyte	825p (+7p)
Ocean Wilson	82p (+8p)
LBMS	210p (+8p)
C Salvesen	260p (+6p)

Berkley Gp	374p (-9p)
ICI	764p (-21p)
Laporte	742p (-8p)
Inchcape	598p (-9p)
Delta	504p (-8p)
Tadpole Tech	56p (-20p)
Glynwed	343p (-7p)
GKN	622p (-7p)
Goldborough	154p (-11p)
Kewill Sys	291p (-7p)
BAA	474p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 31

FKI loads its gun

THE most reassuring message that came from FKI yesterday was not the profits, which were expected, nor the rights issue, which was also expected and was depressing the shares. For investors who have a niggling worry about acquisition-driven companies, it was not the promise of more deals that pleased, but it was the sight of both healthy cash flow and increased capital expenditure.

FKI has done 15 acquisitions over the past three years and many investors might hope for a period of consolidation, but FKI will have none of that. The heavy hints yesterday suggested that a deal as big as the \$90 million Ardura is around the corner if not within sight. FKI is not known for overpaying: the company has a price ceiling of about 7 times operating profit, which gives it the scope to pay for some goodwill, service the interest and

NFC THE slight dip in NFC shares yesterday was almost a nod of approval for the restructuring plan; it is easy

to view the transport group as a candidate for a formulaic cost-cutting drive. Sir Christopher Bland, NPC's chairman, gave other signals that the future could be brighter: the dividend is held and he has given Gerry Murphy, the new chief executive, a payback period of only two years for the £35 million provision.

He is well qualified, having streamlined Greencore, the Irish foods group, after its privatisation, and NFC has all the hallmarks of a company similarly cushioned from the market by paternalism. NFC's moving services are barely breaking even on almost £300 million of sales. Short-term NFC

Scottish Hydro

THE timing of the latest price review has not been kind to Hydro-Electric's figures, but, for once, it is not the fault of the regulator but a two-week delay at the MMC.

The announcement is due today and the market took its cue from the dark cloud hanging over the board yesterday. The result is vital for the electricity sector because it is a precursor to the re-view of the English and Welsh distributors by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, to start next month.

review to the MMC because it claimed that the regime imposed on the distribution business allowed a rate of return of only 2 per cent, well below the 7 per cent permitted to other utilities and the 6 per cent *enjoyed* by the larger Scottish Power. The betting is on some relaxation of that figure suggested by the MMC, to boost Hydro-Elec-

boost the bottom line. But FKI is also generating a lot of cash — the company was able to pocket some £30 million last year after interest, dividends and tax as well as capital expenditure, which is now exceeding depreciation. With such performance, a rating of 13 times forward profits looks cheap.

In the absence of another deal, FKI could pay down the high debt levels quite easily but it wants to increase the pace and this year could be a test. FKI's stamping ground has been the hot US economy, which is showing signs of slower growth. It would like to increase its taxable profits in the UK but there are few decent private companies of size and FKI is sensibly avoiding bid premiums. Shareholders will not snuff at another US deal, but FKI will need to select its target well if it is not to waste its ammunition.

suffered margin loss on contract renewals, while competition will hinder profits growth from new business. The US is more promising: only 15 per cent of distribution is sub-contracted. But even there, competition is stiff. NFC's new bosses should enjoy a honeymoon this year, followed by a long haul uphill.

LOGISTICS LETDOWN

FT all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

240
230
220
210
200
190
180
170
160
150
140

Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

perhaps £10 a year on some would then be a return to rubber—cannot be too much of a surprise in the position could show power to own MMC is one of the few ways in which to make headway when, all around, markets stagnate. Historically, Graham could have relied on an upward swing in the cycle. Nowadays, however, low inflation and negative equity have flattened the housing cycle from boom and bust into a gentle decline.

A combination of Graham and Erith also makes sense in product and geographical make-up. Graham is light on heavy materials and strong on light goods, while the reverse is true for Erith. Graham is Yorkshire-based and Erith also gives Graham access to the South East and

/ Erith
says the piper
And purchas-
the more in-
market beset
prices and by
iden housing:
group's recom-
for Erith is not
malgamation

The graph displays two data series over a 12-month period from June 1997 to June 1998. The 'Share price' (solid line) starts at approximately 215 and ends near 300. The 'FT all-share index (rebased)' (dotted line) starts at 180 and ends near 225. Both indices show a general upward trend with significant fluctuations, including a sharp dip in late 1997 followed by a recovery.

CRUDE OIL (London & FOB)			GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel FOB)			WHEAT		BARLEY	
Brent 1st day (Sep)	17.70	-0.10	Jul	124.90	Sep	160.00
Brent 15 day (Sep)	17.70	-0.10	Aug	124.90	Oct	157.50
Brent 1st day (Sep)	17.70	-0.10	Jul	107.50	Nov	152.50
WTCS Intermediate (Aug)	18.00	-0.05	Aug	107.50	Dec	152.50
WTCS Intermediate (Sep)	18.00	-0.05	Jul	110.25	Jan	111.25
			Mar	110.25	Mar	111.25
			Volume: 170		Volume: 2	
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			POTATO (\$/MT)			
Spot CIF NW Gas (gross) (delivery)			Aug	Open	Close	
Premium European Gas	B: 197 (+1)	C: 199 (+1)	Sept	109.0	107.3	
WTCS Intermediate (Aug)	18.00	-0.05	May	unq	149.0	
Non EEC 1st Jul	154 (+1)	155 (+1)	Jun	unq	149.0	
Non EEC 1st Aug	154 (+1)	155 (+1)	Volume: 12			
WTCS Intermediate (Sep)	89 (-2)	91 (-2)				
Naphtha	183 (-2)	185 (-2)				
IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)			RUBBER (No 1 RSS CIF P/B)			
GAS OIL			1995-99-75			
Jul	152.00-52.25	Oct 196.00-56.25	BEEF (GNI Ltd \$/lb/g)			
Aug	152.00-52.25	Nov 175.00-50.00	Jul	High	Low	
Sep	153.50-53.75	Vol: 11679	Jul 86	1940	2000	
BRENT (\$/bbl)			Jul 86	1925	1970	
Jul	17.56-17.58	Oct 17.87 81	Aug 86	1940	1970	
Aug	17.56-17.58	Nov 17.87 81	Vol: 30 m	1940	1970	
Sep	17.17-17.40	Vol: 38597	Index: 1483 - 4			
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE						
Copper Gd (\$/tonne)	Cont: 2897.0-2898.0	Jan: 2884.0-2885.0	Random Wt/B			
Zinc Gd (\$/tonne)	808.0-809.0	Oct: 801.0-802.0	Feb	131.0	133.75	
30% Sp. Gd (\$/tonne)	899.0-900.0	1022.0-1023.0	Mar	129.0	129.75	
Aluminium H Gd (\$/tonne)	660.0-666.0	6645.0-6650.0	Apr	140.0	141.0	
Nickel (\$/tonne)	1718.0-1725.5	1718.0-1725.5	May	140.0	140.0	
Thal (\$/tonne)	7615.0-7620.0	7735.0-7740.0				

Series						Cuts						
Series	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Series	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
BAA... 460	30	32	41	30	19	15	Abby Lind...	140	28	30	15	14
(472) 300	3	12	21	25	33	39	1727	500	0	28	19	27
(473) 300	0	12	21	25	33	39	1728	500	0	28	19	27
(474) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1729	500	0	11	15	22
(475) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1730	500	0	11	15	22
(476) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1731	500	0	11	15	22
(477) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1732	500	0	11	15	22
(478) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1733	500	0	11	15	22
(479) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1734	500	0	11	15	22
(480) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1735	500	0	11	15	22
(481) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1736	500	0	11	15	22
(482) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1737	500	0	11	15	22
(483) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1738	500	0	11	15	22
(484) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1739	500	0	11	15	22
(485) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1740	500	0	11	15	22
(486) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1741	500	0	11	15	22
(487) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1742	500	0	11	15	22
(488) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1743	500	0	11	15	22
(489) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1744	500	0	11	15	22
(490) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1745	500	0	11	15	22
(491) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1746	500	0	11	15	22
(492) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1747	500	0	11	15	22
(493) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1748	500	0	11	15	22
(494) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1749	500	0	11	15	22
(495) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1750	500	0	11	15	22
(496) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1751	500	0	11	15	22
(497) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1752	500	0	11	15	22
(498) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1753	500	0	11	15	22
(499) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1754	500	0	11	15	22
(500) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1755	500	0	11	15	22
(501) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1756	500	0	11	15	22
(502) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1757	500	0	11	15	22
(503) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	1758	500	0	11	15	22
(504) 300	0	14	23	25	31	38	17					

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Jan 95	3378.00	3385.00	3331.00	3337.00	165272
Previous open interest: 79063	Sep 95	3394.00	3398.00	3357.00	3378.00	165272
FT-SE 250	Jan 95	5610.00	5615.00	5550.00	5555.00	165272
Previous open interest: 5394	Sep 95	5698.00	5700.00	5660.00	5680.00	165272
Three Month Sterling	Jan 95	93.37	93.38	93.34	93.36	26497
Previous open interest: 433552	Sep 95	93.15	93.17	93.04	93.07	26497
	Dec 95	92.86	92.92	92.83	92.85	23566
Three Month Eurodollar	Jan 95	94.29	94.30	94.27	94.29	9439
Previous open interest: 1164	Sep 95	94.27	94.28	94.21	94.21	9439
Three Mth Euro DM	Jan 95	95.89	95.90	95.51	95.53	51063
Previous open interest: 71675	Sep 95	95.73	95.74	95.43	95.45	51063
Long Gilt	Jan 95	107.41	107.17	106.49	106.22	305
Previous open interest: 17708	Sep 95	107.80	107.50	106.51	106.25	305
Japanese Govt Bond	Jan 95	111.84	111.75	110.80	110.60	10116
	Dec 95				110.00	0
German Govt Bd Bund	Sep 95	94.70	94.73	93.80	94.00	15816
Previous open interest: 181347	Dec 95	94.60	94.60	93.49	93.82	15816
Three month ECU	Jan 95	93.87	93.87	93.77	93.80	248
Previous open interest: 19086	Sep 95	93.56	93.59	93.43	93.51	248
Euro Swiss Franc	Jan 95	96.88	96.89	96.79	96.86	2356
Previous open interest: 44979	Sep 95	96.88	96.90	96.72	96.77	2356
Italian Govt Bond	Jan 95	98.10	98.25	98.10	98.22	20204
Previous open interest: 40264	Sep 95				97.92	0

	1 min	2 min	3 min	6 min	12 min
Prime Bank Bills (Dish)	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢
Sterling Money Order	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	7¢/¢
Interbank	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	7¢/¢
Overnight	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	7¢/¢
Local Authority Depts	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	7
Sterling Cash	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢
Debtors	5.06	n/a	500	5.78	5.72
Equity	5.06	n/a	500	5.78	5.72
DOGS (Fixed Rate Sterling)	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢	0¢/¢

COMMODITY PRICES - DECEMBER 1982 (%)					
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6-5/8	6-5/8	6-5/8	5-3/4	5-1/4
Deutschmark:	4-1/4	4-1/4	4-1/4	3-3/4	3-1/4
Swiss Franc:	3-1/2	3-1/2	3-1/2	3-1/2	3-1/4
Yen:	7-1/4	7-1/4	1-1/4	1-1/4	1-1/4

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)	
Bullion: Open \$386.00-387.00	Close: \$387.00-388.25
Low: \$386.15-386.65	AM: \$388.00
	PM: \$387.25
Kruggerand: \$399.00-391.00	\$241.50-243.50
Platinum: \$437.35 (\$273.45)	Silver: \$5.37 (\$3.33)
	Palladium: \$159.75 (\$99.83)

MSL Rates for June 14	2.5156-2.5234	2.5156-2.5197	3 months	3 months
Amsterdam	2.5156-2.5234	2.5156-2.5197	1-4pgr	1-10pgr
Antwerp	2.5156-2.5234	2.5156-2.5197	1-4pgr	25-10pgr
Copenhagen	8.7640-8.7890	8.7640-8.7890	1pgr-2pgr	1-4pgr
Oslo	8.7640-8.7890	8.7640-8.7890	1-4pgr	2-7pgr
Oslo	8.7640-8.7890	8.7640-8.7890	1-4pgr	2-7pgr
Prankfurt	2.2492-2.2533	2.2492-2.2533	1-4pgr	1-17pgr
Prankfurt	2.2492-2.2533	2.2492-2.2533	1-4pgr	1-17pgr
Madrid	19.463-19.5	19.463-19.5	4pgr-5pgr	1-10pgr
Madrid	19.463-19.5	19.463-19.5	4pgr-5pgr	1-10pgr
Milan	26.66-26.66	26.66-26.66	1-4pgr	26-36pgr
Milan	26.66-26.66	26.66-26.66	1-4pgr	26-36pgr
New York	1.9556-1.9597	1.9556-1.9597	0.15-0.24pgr	0.23-0.31pgr
New York	1.9556-1.9597	1.9556-1.9597	0.15-0.24pgr	0.23-0.31pgr
Oslo	8.9820-9.0170	10.0170-10.0170	1-4pgr	2-1pgr
Oslo	8.9820-9.0170	10.0170-10.0170	1-4pgr	2-1pgr
Stockholm	7.8800-7.8150	7.8800-7.8150	1-4pgr	1-4pgr
Stockholm	7.8800-7.8150	7.8800-7.8150	1-4pgr	1-4pgr
Tokyo	13.841-13.5	13.5-13.5	1-4pgr	1-4pgr
Tokyo	13.841-13.5	13.5-13.5	1-4pgr	1-4pgr
Vienna	15.80-15.85	15.80-15.85	1-4pgr	1-4pgr
Vienna	15.80-15.85	15.80-15.85	1-4pgr	1-4pgr

Australia	1,584.0-1,353.8	AMC Inc	49
Austria	9.53-9.84	AMC Corp	49
Belgium (Ccm)	26.76-28.70	AMC Corp	49
Canada	1,510.1-1,512.5	AMC Corp	49
Denmark	2,678.9-3,603.3	AMC Corp	49
France	4,915.5-4,919.5	AMC Corp	49
Germany	4,325.0-4,320.0	AMC Corp	49
Hong Kong	1,723.7-1,726.3	AMC Corp	49
Holland	6,595.1-6,577.5	AMC Corp	49
Italy	1,642.0-1,643.0	AMC Corp	49
Japan	3,399.3-3,399.3	AMC Corp	49
Malaysia	2,942.0-2,942.0	AMC Corp	49
Netherlands	1,560.0-1,560.0	AMC Corp	49
Norway	2,220.0-2,220.0	AMC Corp	49
Portugal	147.30-147.60	AMC Corp	49
Singapore	1,393.5-1,394.5	AMC Corp	49
Spain	1,725.1-1,725.1	AMC Corp	49
Sweden	1,236.3-1,236.3	AMC Corp	49
Switzerland	1,150.0-1,150.0	AMC Corp	49

Argentina paper	1,404.3-1,670.0	AMC Corp	49
Australia dollar	2,658.1-2,727.7	AMC Corp	49
Bahrain dollar	0.995-0.907	AMC Corp	49
Brazil repul	1,452.1-1,493.3	AMC Corp	49
Cayman dollar	0.995-0.995	AMC Corp	49
Siangd rupee	0.704-0.714	AMC Corp	49
U.S. dollar	1.000-1.000	AMC Corp	49
Greece drachma	129.75-366.75	AMC Corp	49
Hong Kong dollar	1.000-1.000	AMC Corp	49
India rupee	1.000-1.000	AMC Corp	49
Indonesia rupiah	3,515.0-3,583.5	AMC Corp	49
Korean drachm	0.472-0.482	AMC Corp	49
Malaysian ringgit	1.000-1.000	AMC Corp	49
New Zealand dollar	2,922.0-2,925.0	AMC Corp	49
Pakistan rupee	0.665-0.665	AMC Corp	49
Saudi Arabia riyal	0.665-0.665	AMC Corp	49
Singapore dollar	2,273.2-2,273.2	AMC Corp	49
South Africa rand	5.798-5.798	AMC Corp	49
U.A.E. dirham	2.000-2.000	AMC Corp	49

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THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYUK can learn
from Uganda

EAT your heart out Kenneth Clarke. Uganda, has beaten inflation down to an annual 2.9 per cent, undershooting Britain's latest RPI showing of 3.3 per cent, according to Charles Kikoryo, Governor of the Bank of Uganda. As our Chancellor will recall, the sub-Saharan state was still running 300 per cent inflation in 1986 after years of devastating guerrilla war. The Ugandan Government is now a net saver and the economy is growing a handsome 6.5 per cent annual clip. Such is the confidence in the African economy that its first stock exchange is to open this year at Kampala, Kikoryo disclosed in London yesterday.

Direct action

MONEY cannot buy you perfect flight, as Peter Wood, the high-worth chief executive of Direct Line, has found out. At his insurance company's tenth anniversary thrash, in Buckingham Gate on Tuesday, Wood, whose bonuses peaked at £18.2 million in 1993, related how British Airways, which has a monopoly on the Bermuda run, managed to produce every conceivable delay, even losing his suitcase, on his recent return flight. Wood has penned a vigorous letter to the BA leadership, which should make Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, sit up, given Wood's burning ambition to run an airline.

Caught out

ROY GRIFFIN, the white-haired doyen of Britain's industrial correspondence, has finally been caught out by his insatiable appetite for exclusives. Arriving at the London offices of Cardew & Co, the PR consultant, on the promise of a private briefing with British Aerospace chairman Bob Bauman, Griffin was greeted by 22 colleagues gathered for a lunch to mark his own sixtieth birthday.



Hughes: sausage line

Gallic bangers

"ENGLISH" sausages are going with a bang at the Paris Air Show. Matthew Hughes, of Gardner Merchant Town & County, the caterer taken over in January by Sodexo of France, is head chef for British Aerospace. The string of English-type sausages supplied, the length of 30 Eurofighters, was, however, made by a French subsidiary.

Undercover

LOUIS SCHWEITZER, chairman of Renault, France's part-privatised carmaker, retains a sense of humour, in spite of an inquiry into possible links with the tainted blood scandal when he worked for Laurent Fabius, the former PM. In the City to sharpen his sales pitch for the next tranche of Renault, probably this autumn, Schweitzer seemed unconcerned about the possibility of his becoming a victim of political change in Paris. The only Renault boss ousted for political reasons was Louis Renault in 1944 for collaborating with the Germans. Schweitzer noted that it is said M Renault worked with the Nazis merely to steal VW technology.

Britain must let its head rule
on EMU and not its heart

The UK's
over-riding
objective should
be to prepare
for life outside a
single currency

Britain is not "at the heart of Europe" and never will be. This is an incontrovertible fact that even John Major, a man whose knowledge of history and geography seems to be no better than his mastery of economics and rhetoric, is finally beginning to grasp. What Britain can try to do is put itself "at the head of Europe". The head or the brain, it is worth recalling, is an organ which nature has placed on the edge of every living organism more advanced than a protozoan.

To stretch the metaphor a little further, it is perhaps no coincidence that nature, in its wisdom, has positioned nerve-centres at the edge of complex creatures. Living things flourish by interacting with the outside world. The same is true of societies, nations and even super-states such as the future Europe. This is also the reason — and here we can return from shaky biological metaphors to hard historical realities — why great centres of politics, commerce and civilisation have so often evolved on the peripheries of the countries or empires they ruled. Significantly, two of the main exceptions to this historic pattern have been Paris and Berlin.

This is a lesson that members of the British establishment, many of them paid generous salaries by the shareholders of banks and multinationals who could lose heavily as a result of EMU, would do well to heed. Instead of walling about the disaster that would face Britain if it stayed outside the single currency zone, they should start thinking positively about the business opportunities that would be presented by exclusion from EMU.

The Government must make an even more *gestalt*-shift. Instead of arguing about whether to join EMU or just hoping that the whole issue will go away because of a Franco-German rift, politicians must start making plans on the assumption that EMU will go ahead and Britain will stay out. Britain must start demanding clear and enforceable guarantees from its European partners that countries that stay outside EMU will enjoy the same rights of free trade and free capital movement in the single market, as the countries that join.

Specifically, the EU must be forced to delete from all its agreements and policy statements the kind of veiled protectionist threats contained in the Commission's recent Green Paper on the single currency. "Attainment of the common market and the liberalisation of capital movements call for a logical and essential complement: the single currency. For the single market to work smoothly, 'exchange-rate adjustments must not be allowed



Single market allies: Helmut Kohl, of Germany, and Jacques Chirac, of France

to disrupt trade and investment." As long as the EU maintains the doctrine that "a single market demands a single currency", countries that stay outside EMU will face the possibility of trade sanctions when their industries prove more effective competitors than those of the "core" states. The time to assert these demands will be at the Inter-Governmental Conference that begins next year. If necessary by threatening to block all constitutional changes favoured by Germany and France.

In sum, Britain's over-riding objective at the IGC and the months of preparation that come before it, should be to prepare for life outside a single currency on the assumption that the core of Europe will go ahead in 1999. For the practical fact is that Britain will be outside the "inner core of Europe", whether Lord Kingsdown, Lord Howe, Lord Jenkins and all their other lordships like it or not.

How can I be so sure that Britain will stay outside EMU? I have four reasons. Firstly, I have recently talked to several of the country's most successful bankers and industrialists. Unlike the less astute, though more extravagantly in-

vested political retraders who are leading the business establishment's rush towards EMU, these people expect Britain to opt out of EMU and are quietly planning to take advantage of the competitive opportunities this presents. Consider just a few obvious examples of relevance to the City. Banks in the EMU region will face minimum reserve requirements; British banks will not.

European banks will have to pay the huge costs of converting their retail operations to Euros; British banks will avoid those. Banks based in Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam will lose most of their foreign exchange business, which is intra-European; as a result London's financial dominance will grow.

The second reason for confidence that Britain will stay out of EMU is that the economic arguments against a single currency have started to be clearly articulated by influential business organisations. Two exceptionally convincing exponents of the anti-EMU case have recently been published by the Institute of Directors (*A Single European Currency*) and HSBC Markets (*The Economics of Monetary*

Union). Readers who want to make up their own minds about the economics of monetary union could not do better than to send off for these two pamphlets and weigh them against the pro-EMU arguments of the *Kingsdown Enquiry* (published by the Action Centre for Europe).

Third, there is politics. Mr Major's position is weak. To avoid a leadership challenge, he will eventually submit to the bullying of the Euro-sceptics and promise not to join EMU in the lifetime of the next parliament. That in itself may be of little moment, since the actual decision on EMU is more likely to be taken by Tony Blair. But there is another reason why even Mr Blair has been less than vociferous lately in demanding membership of EMU at the earliest possible date.

This reason is the fourth and the most convincing argument for believing that Britain will definitely stay out of EMU if Germany and France move ahead on January 1, 1999, as they have solemnly agreed in the Maastricht treaty. One of the few absolutely unambiguous provisions of this treaty states that any country that wants to be considered for membership of the monetary

union must have been a member of the ERM for at least two years. This means that Britain would have to rejoin the ERM by January 1997 at the latest even to be considered as a possible founder-member of EMU in January 1999.

In fact, to qualify for consideration at the meeting of European finance ministers in December 1997, when the decisions on membership are supposed to be taken, it is arguable that Britain would have to rejoin the ERM as early as December this year. Clearly these deadlines put founder-membership of EMU completely out of the question. Any British politicians who advocated rejoining the ERM this side of the general election would be signing his party's suicide note.

It is possible, of course, that Europe could ignore the Maastricht rules and let Britain join the single currency from outside the ERM. To do this, however, would gravely jeopardise the whole single currency project, since the German Constitutional Court has ruled that subverting the mark into EMU would be unconstitutional if the conditions in the Maastricht treaty were not strictly observed. While these "conditions" leave plenty of leeway for the Council of Ministers to judge awkward figures on budget deficits and public debts, admitting a country that had not served its time in the ERM would be such a flagrant violation that it would make a mockery of the whole Maastricht treaty.

Britain could possibly join EMU a year or two after 1999. But having missed the chance to become a founder member, it would surely be considered sensible, even by Euro-enthusiasts, to wait a few more years and see how the project worked out. In sum, there would be no chance of Britain joining EMU before 2000 and no point in joining before 2002 — that is, within the lifetime of the next parliament.

So Mr Major could give Euro-sceptics the pledge they demand or he could refuse it; in practice it would change nothing. The real issue is whether he can defend Britain's freedom to enjoy the single market when it finds itself outside the rigid and uncompetitive "inner core" of single currency states. That will be the true challenge for Britain's policy in Europe in the next decade.

Hint of menace
in snapshots of
employment

As joblessness falls more slowly, fears
for recovery grow. Philip Bassett reports

The Government's latest job figures yesterday flashed some signals about the UK labour market's performance — the fall in unemployment slowing still further and employment declining after months of growth. Both could be significant for the pace of economic recovery.

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, used the figures to support the Government's insistence that economic growth is continuing, and is sustainable. Although the signs from the figures yesterday could well be just an over-reading of one month's data, they may signal a shift in the UK labour market.

Over the past year, the average monthly fall in unemployment has been 29,000. Over the past six months, 25,400. And over the past three, 16,300. Ministers have always accepted that a rogue month might push unemployment back up, but Whitehall is bracing itself for the fall in unemployment to flatten soon — or even, with the prospect of many students joining the count over summer, edging up.

May unemployment was flat in East Anglia, and elsewhere, showed only small falls — of 700 in the West Midlands, 200 in the South West and 100 in Wales. Although the number joining the unemployment count was, at 295,000 in May, the lowest for more than five years, the 314,000 who left it was the lowest since the same figure in December 1992 at the last peak of unemployment.

So if the unemployment figures were giving only scant comfort to ministers, what about jobs? After a long period of concern, when the Government's employer-based workforce in employment (WIE) series seemed to be telling a different story from its household-based Labour Force Survey (LFS) — one had employment falling, the second had it rising — the two series have come, or been brought, more closely into line. Yesterday, however, WIE figures unexpectedly went back on themselves. After six months of growth in jobs, employment dropped by 14,000 in the first quarter of this year, to stand at 23,586 million. Manufacturing employment fell 10,000 in April,

after three successive quarters of growth.

Ministers may worry that the UK is paralysing the US. Ministers have long seen the US labour market — flexible, deregulated, and with strong job growth — as the model for Britain to follow. However, a fortnight ago, US markets took a dive after figures showing a much larger than expected decline of 101,000 in non-farm payroll jobs, prompting speculation about whether economic recovery in the US was drawing to an end. Employment fell in construction and manufacturing, and job growth was slow in the normally buoyant services sector. Only employment in motion pictures was strong.

Mr Portillo told *The Times* that his support for the US labour market as a model will not be swayed by one month's American figures. Job growth in the US, he said, still far outperformed that in Europe. However, in the first quarter of this year in the UK, jobs declined in all sectors apart from manufacturing, the Employment Department said yesterday.

Though jobs, as measured by WIE figures, are still up by 177,000 over the year, the 14,000 overall first-quarter decline masked important sectoral shifts.

Women's jobs are now falling, down 15,000, and men's employment is just rising, up a thousand. Male part-time work rose 7,000 in the quarter. Women's fell 8,000.

Employment in construction fell again for the second quarter. Only hotels, distribution and banking and finance saw rises in jobs.

Ministers had drawn comfort from the WIE and LFS measures appearing to tell the same story, and yesterday's fall in WIE jobs will worry them, especially if confirmed by new LFS figures next month — and will do so even if LFS employment is shown to be still rising, since divergence between the two measures will then have re-emerged.

There was still enough in yesterday's figures for ministers to draw on in claiming underlying strength in the economy. However, with nervous indications from the US, future months' job figures will be scanned with special interest for signs of economic weakness.

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Moral issue behind proxy vote row

From Mr Paul Jennings

Sir, I am dismayed to see that Gill Not's, the chief executive of Proshare, has totally misunderstood the concerns expressed about proxy votes being cast by directors (Business Letters, June 8).

I do not think that anyone can object to a system whereby shareholders who cannot attend an AGM are able to appoint a proxy to cast their votes.

The issue is the morality of large numbers of votes being exercised by a small number of powerful individuals.

The objection to trade union block votes was that a sole union representative purported to represent the opinion of millions of individual workers.

(One recalls the amusing *Not the Nine O'Clock News* sketch where a meeting of four union leaders stopped for refreshments and the three delegates who wanted coffee were out-voted by 10,000,000 to 6,000,000 by the one delegate who wanted tea.)

A similar concern for individuals whose money is invested in pension schemes, unit trusts or insurance policies, unit trusts or other investment media must be that the fund managers who wield the votes on the shares they control will slavishly send in large numbers of proxy votes in favour of the resolutions proposed by directors rather than represent the views — perhaps dissenting — of the individuals whose money bought the shares.

It is impossible to legislate for every eventuality, but this seems to be a corporate governance issue where even Cadbury might fear to tread.

If the ultimate sanction on directors' actions is shareholder power, how can we make institutional investors demonstrate that they are truly representing the wishes of their ultimate stakeholders? Or am I asking, *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*

Yours faithfully,
PAUL JENNINGS,
13 First Avenue,
Amersham,
Buckinghamshire.

Debate over shareholder democracy

From Dr Maurice Gillibrand

Sir, There is some validity in Ms Gill Not's argument (Business Letters, June 8) that the proposal by Mr John Edmonds falls short of full democratic principles. Nevertheless, the proposal that representatives of proxy voters should not be directors and should attend annual meetings is surely an improvement on the present situation.

At the same time, Ms Not's statement that "there are many ways that shareholder democracy on the basis of one share one vote can be encouraged and improved" needs to be challenged. Undoubtedly, individual shareholders actively participating in an annual meeting and overruled by absent institutional proxy votes would be pleased to consider any such alternatives. In the meantime, Mr Edmonds's proposal appears to be the only alternative to the present situation.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE GILLIBRAND,
7 Tal-y-Cae,
Tregarth,
Bangor,
Gwynedd.

How much power does the EU really have?

From Mr Douglas Brown

Sir, "Neil Kinnock threatens legal action over UK-US air deal" (The Times, June 7).

And if we lose the case, what then — a fine?

And if we refuse to pay the fine, what then — armed invasion by the Lichtenstein SAS?

Put more directly, what final sanction has the EU over

transgressors?
Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS BROWN,
Maidford Manor,
Malmesbury.

Letters to the Business
section of *The Times*
can be sent by fax
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Shorts and Texas in missile venture

By Ross Tiesman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHORT BROTHERS, the Belfast aerospace group, has teamed with Texas Instruments to bid for two £1 billion contracts to provide missiles for the Royal Air Force.

The partners have already filed their bid to provide the Griffin-38 gliding tank-busting missile; they also plan to offer the Griffin-38 variant in the contest to provide the RAF with a long-range cruise missile, which closes next month.

Under the agreement announced yesterday at the Paris Air Show, Shorts, if selected, will build the airframe for the missiles, assemble them at one of its Belfast plants, and carry out final testing.

TI will help Britain to offset any adverse impact on the balance of payments by finding work for Shorts on Griffin missiles ordered by the United States Air Force and Navy.

Success in the contest would create new jobs in Belfast. Some 300 people are already employed in missile manufacture there by Shorts Missile Systems, a 50/50 joint venture between Short Brothers, which is owned by Bombardier of Canada, and Thomson-CSF, of France.

But that business specialises in high-velocity, short-range anti-aircraft missiles such as Starstreak, which is likely to be offered to the Ministry of Defence to equip Britain's 91 attack helicopters, scheduled to be ordered next month. McDonnell Douglas is expected to offer the Starstreak to the US Army.

Griffin missiles would be built at one of the company's aerostuctures plants. Both competitors are likely to be hard fought, however, with competition coming from BAE/Matra and GEC, of Britain, and Hughes and Raytheon, of America.

Graham offers £55.4m for Erith

By Christine Buckley

GRAHAM GROUP yesterday moved to make itself the country's second-largest builders' merchant with a £55.4 million bid for Erith and gave warning that the building supplies market was squeezing the smaller player.

The acquisition, which should proceed quickly as the offer is recommended, will be the first large purchase by Graham since it was spun off from BTR, the industrial conglomerate, two years ago. Ian Mills, Graham's chief executive, said that the move had been made in the face of a building market hit by soaring prices for materials and lacklustre housing prospects. "The normal pattern of boom and bust has gone. We are not playing the same game anymore and won't be for the foreseeable future."

While housing continues to drag its heels in the wake of the property slump, building material costs, which operate as world prices, have jumped he said, with strip steel climbing 15 per cent and PVC granules 44 per cent over the past year.

Smaller merchants have little buying power to negotiate down steep increases that their builders are reluctant to absorb. The purchase of Erith, said Mr Mills, was intended to combat this. "It is all about purchasing power at the moment."

The two companies started talks after deciding that the only way to improve market share in the poor trading environment was to join forces. At the end of 1994,

Erith's turnover stood at £85.2 million although, since then, it has made a number of acquisitions that push its turnover now to an estimated £100 million. Graham's turnover at the end of last year was £418 million.

There may be job losses in the acquisition, though Graham will not estimate numbers. It has said it is eager to install computerisation into a number of Erith's operations.

Graham is offering three new Graham shares for every five Erith shares, valuing each Erith share at 109.2p (yesterday they stood at 105p, up 28p), or a cash alternative of 104p.

Erith's board members and shareholders owning 13.4 per cent of the share capital have already agreed to the offer, while institutions holding a further 22.2 per cent have also said they are willing to accept. Graham's bid represents a multiple of 28.1 times Erith's 1994 earnings per share and a premium of 65.4 per cent over the share price on June 6, the day before the announcement about discussions between the companies.

It has been known for some time that Graham has been seeking to expand its national presence. Erith has a strong base in London and the South East of England where Graham is at present absent.

The two companies also make a complementary fit on product type with Graham's concentration in light goods balanced by Erith's focus on heavy products.

Times, page 28



Looking overseas: Roger Young, chief executive, outside Kirkwall power station, Orkney

Scottish Hydro-Electric finds its riches south of the border

By Martin Waller

A GROWING export business selling power into the English and Welsh markets has more than counterbalanced a slide in profits in the home market from the Scottish Hydro-Electric, the smaller of the two Scottish power companies.

The company is expected to hear today the results of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the pricing regime for its distribution business, and the City was yesterday betting on a positive outcome.

The shares edged ahead 6p to 343p, as Hydro-Electric announced pre-tax profits of £168.7 million, for the year to March 31, from the £164.2 million reported

last time. The operating profit, however, was 11 per cent higher, at £196.8 million, and underlying earnings per share advanced 13 per cent to 36.8p. The pre-tax figure, by contrast, was struck after the payment of a £18.8 million premium from the early redemption of £16 million of government debt.

The company is paying a 9.67p final dividend, raising the total from 12.64p to 14.01p. Profits in Scotland were £9.9 million lower than last time because of regulatory changes, the mild winter and the effects of the imposition of VAT on fuel bills. But the company made an additional £29.5 million from selling

power south of the border. The company has about 2 per cent of the power generation market in England and Wales, from generating plant and from exports via the interconnector across the border, and expects to add another three to four percentage points over the next few years by means of other schemes, mainly combined heat and power plants.

But Roger Young, the chief executive, said there were no plans to expand further abroad. "We're not looking at overseas," he said. "There is room for us to continue expanding in England and Wales."

Times, page 28

Mansfield cashes in on Russian thirst

THE new-found thirst in Russia and the Baltic states for lager and bitter brewed in Yorkshire contributed an extra £500,000 to profits at Mansfield Brewery in the latest financial year, the first fruits of an export operation set up with the encouragement of the Department of Trade and Industry. Rising exports pushed volumes up 12 per cent, although in this country, Mansfield Brewery has mirrored the experiences of other regional brewers in reporting strong progress at the company's managed pubs estate but a poor performance from smaller tenanted pubs.

Pre-tax profits in the year to April 1 rose £3 million to £17.4 million, helped by a 7 per cent rise in volumes of beer sold to its managed pubs, but Sir David White, chairman, said some smaller tenancies were still suffering from the recession, and volumes of beer to tenanted pubs fell 4 per cent. There is a 3.7p final dividend, which increases the total to 5.2p (4.4p), out of earnings per share that were 19 per cent up at 19.46p. Sir David said trading so far this year was up to expectation.

Bradford lifts payout

BRADFORD PROPERTY TRUST, the residential property investment group, suffered from a fall in dealing profits in the year to April 5, with property sales declining from £28.7 million to £18.4 million. More vacant property was re-let at market rents than sold and rents rose from £19 million to £23 million. At the pre-tax level, profits fell from £30 million to £24 million but excluding exceptional items, Bradford's profits improved 3 per cent to £24.8 million. The open market value of Bradford's residential portfolio was £269 million. The dividend was up 10 per cent to 7.15p for the year.

Stirling back in profit

STIRLING, the clothing manufacturer, achieved pre-tax profits of £6.08 million, against losses last year of £798,000, incurred after a hit of £4.1 million for disposals. Now more streamlined and with the acquisition of a menswear business, Stirling said that sales to Marks & Spencer were up 11 per cent. Stirling has opened sites to increase capacity for lingerie output. The dividend rises by 7.9 per cent, to 2.05p, with the final payment due on October 6. Turnover increased by 4.9 per cent, to £80 million. Operating profit rose by 7.1 per cent, to £5.8 million, on continuing operations.

GWR's German deal

GWR, the Bristol commercial radio group staging a hostile bid for Chiltern Radio, is buying a 21 per cent stake in Antenne Sachsen, the German radio station, GWR, which has 20 licences in the UK, is to buy shares and make a capital contribution via a silent partnership, at a total cost of £1.63 million. The shares and investment will run to £1.54 million, while £94,000 is being set aside for dividend payments. Last year, GWR reported a 241 per cent jump in pre-tax profits after acquisitions took its listening base from 3 million to 8.8 million. GWR has also invested in Bulgaria and Poland.

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Silence on the agenda

Prem Sikka and Peter Armstrong argue for public accountability in auditing



Roger Davis opposed some auditing industry reforms

In common with other leading accountancy firm barons, Roger Davis, a Coopers & Lybrand partner, enjoys the fruits of a statutory monopoly of external auditing and shuns public accountability. From this cosy world, he finds it all too easy in his article (*The Times*, May 18) to oppose reforms that will bring the auditing industry under democratic control.

On non-auditing services, academic research shows that companies that purchase audit and non-audit services from the same accountancy firm,

pay more than those purchasing them from separate firms. The Department of Trade and Industry's inspectors report on the audit failures at Roadships Ltd concluded: "We do not accept that there can be the requisite degree of watchfulness where a man is check-

ing either his own figures or those of a colleague... for these reasons we do not believe that [the auditors] ever achieved the standards of independence necessary for a wholly objective audit."

In view of such conflicts, the Audit Commission does not permit local authority auditors to act as consultants to audit clients. Similar rules apply in many European countries.

Failures in UK auditing are not new. Audit policy-making has remained with individuals who have neither blown the whistle on poor practices nor made themselves accountable to the public.

The Auditing Practices Board *Audit Agenda* is part of this game. It should have been forward looking, but its main concern has been to legitimise the status quo. Leading firms claim to comply with auditing standards, but still end up with audit failures. This suggests that audit failures must be institutionalised within the current auditing standards and modes of thinking that dominate the institutions of auditing. Yet no questions are raised by the APB.

In global financial markets, huge amounts of money are transacted very quickly. In these circumstances, the traditional *ex post* audit is of little

relevance: the situation calls for real-time audits. This requires alternative institutional framework and modes of auditing, yet the APB is silent.

Any forward-looking report should have examined the changing position of accountancy firms in an increasingly divided and unequal society. But the *Audit Agenda* does not even show awareness of such issues. Contrary to the auditing industry's sound-bites, commercialism is rampant. Large firms are concerned with retaining clients, expanding market share, fees and profits rather than any notion of public duty. The firms have aligned themselves with a new class of entrepreneur who invests little or no risk capital, but makes huge financial gains. Examples of these are the executives of utilities and major companies who receive huge performance-related pay packets, bonuses and options. The same firms are devising the pay schemes, tax avoidance schemes, influencing accounting choices and then auditing the financial statements. Public responsibility, accountability and professionalism have been abandoned as the firms act as "cheerleaders" and "coaches" to directors.

Shareholders appear to have been abandoned by auditors. Yet episodes such as Baring's, BCCI and others show that effective audits are needed. This calls for different approaches ranging from independent regulation to direct audits under the control of institutions such as the Securities and Investments Board and the Bank of England. The ultimate concern is to provide protection for shareholders. In pursuit of this, no aspect of the auditing industry should be considered sacred and beyond democratic reform.

Dr Prem Sikka is Reader in Accounting and Finance, University of East London, and Dr Peter Armstrong is Professor of Accounting and Finance, University of Sheffield.

A new euphemism enters the lexicon

ACCOUNTANTS may be adroit with figures, but they are not good at words. This applies particularly to the working group set up by the English ICA to produce a discussion paper for the Institute's council on "the issues relevant to the competitive pricing of professional services".

This brings a new euphemism into the professional lexicon. What it is supposed to be investigating is what used to be called predatory pricing or lowballing, as accounting firms and practitioners know it. Most people would know it as a loss leader, the practice of cutting prices on one service in the hope that the customer, or in this case, client, will also buy some other products and services on which the margins are pretty substantial. At last week's council meeting, Douglas Lambias asked why the profession had invented a third — and innocuous — term for the same practice and applied it to the working group's brief. His point was that the terms predatory pricing, or lowballing, carried connotations of something that would be against the public interest, while competitive pricing was a basic principle of business.

If the Office of Fair Trading or the general public think that accountants are trying to stamp out competitive pricing, he argued, they "will see us as crackers". This is quite likely. But the working group is expected to be a whitewash. It has come about in the aftermath of the battle for the Royal Automobile Club audit. There, BDO Stoy Hayward lost the audit to Price Waterhouse (PW), after a spirited battle over price and objectivity. The RAC said that it was not influenced by PW's offer to do the work for £160,000 after Stoy, during a tendering process, dropped its previous fee of £305,000 to £250,000.

It looks as though the RAC's audit is to become famous as the point at which people within the profession were galvanised to try to sort out worries that had been growing for some years. This is not a case of Stoy versus PW. It is about objectivity and how far it can be transparent. It is unfortunate only that PW has become the focus. That dates back to 1990 when it won the Prudential audit from the then Coopers Deloitte. The firm offered a

£900,000 discount on its tender of a £2.3 million audit fee and agreed to do the audit for £1.4 million. In the world of competitive pricing, that is fine. It is what any business does to increase its client base or for volume. Even newspapers have been known to drop prices to increase circulation.

But in the auditing world there is also the issue of objectivity. And there are also fees for services other than audit. This is where the waters muddy. An outside observer has no way of knowing what, if any, corners may be cut as a result of a cheap audit undermining lucrative consultancy work.

The problem is made worse by the way in which the figures are presented. There is little disclosure, so no outsider can make even an educated guess as to whether a particular audit fee is enough to ensure that a good job will be done.

Stoy's letter to the RAC divided the hours in PW's time budget into the fee and came up with a composite hourly rate of £53. This is obviously unlikely. Calculated on the same hourly rate, the audit of Barclays Bank would take 48 years. On the 1993 figures of the Prudential, PW charged £2.2 million for the audit and £4.7 million for other services. A survey of the 64 companies that the average audit fee is £578,000, and the average fee for other services £1,062,000.

This is where the real problem lies. PW and other large firms all say that very little of their consultancy work comes from audit clients and so they cannot be said to run the risk of compromise. But it is a question of transparency. "The question," as John Wosner, managing partner of Pannell Kerr Forster put it this week, "is whether the commercial pressures on big accounting firms to sell non-audit services have become so material as to have eroded that independence."

The working group has to submit its report by mid-September. There is no way that it will have made sense of all the evidence in a couple of months. The group will be forced to point out that all this pricing is very competitive and so it should be in a difficult and mature market. As for lowballing, no one mentioned that word in the terms of reference.



ROBERT BRUCE

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Dated 15 June, 1995

Dismissal drill at the ICA

THE departure of Jo Holden from the English ICA, where he had held an independent line in running the joint monitoring unit, the Institute's audit watchdog, caused more than a bit of animosity last month. It was felt at the Institute that it was all very well having an inspectorate to put the fear of God into small practitioners, but as one observer put it, "there was embarrassment when the JMU criticised coun-

cil members' firms". Hence Holden's abrupt departure. But senior members of the Institute should beware mysterious looking carpenters. At his unofficial leaving party last week, he was presented with a gift by his staff — a set of chisels and a power drill.

Battle-scarred
ACCOUNTING is not the peaceful life that people sup-

pose. The latest survey by *PASS* magazine and of Harrison Willis, the recruitment consultant, claims that the workplace has become a "combat zone" for trainee-accountants who are "subjected to constant criticism, humiliation and abuse in front of colleagues". Oh for the days when adding up the numbers in the telephone directory was the only responsibility of the trainee-accountant.

Called to account

TO SHOW what effect the inspection system has had on the auditing profession, you have only to look at an example from its outset in 1988. When an accountant in Oxford was asked about his bank account, he said he did not have one. Asked what he did with cheques from clients, he said: "I cash them at the baker's round the corner." He left

the profession soon afterwards.

Looking perkier?

ACCOUNTANTS tired of being told how dull their profession is should be aware that ammunition is on the way that will make them seem zesty and fascinating. Pickingering & Chantle intends to publish a ten-volume *History of Actuarial Science* in September. Suddenly, accounting standards seem positively sexy.

ROBERT BRUCE

32 UNIT TRUST PRICES

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■ FILM 1

All the President's women: Jefferson in Paris is sumptuous but inert fare from Merchant Ivory



■ FILM 2

Somewhere on a farm in Cambodia: Rice People evokes hard lives with a quiet and painstaking beauty

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

Good, unnerving performances from its young actors give Fun more edge than the usual independent movie



■ JAZZ

Pat Metheny shows the Festival Hall the quality that has taken the versatile guitarist to worldwide fame

The President plain is missing

CINEMA: Geoff Brown yearns for the nitty-gritty as Merchant Ivory dish up more ornate fancies in Jefferson in Paris

After 15 years of finding images to fit the words of E.M. Forster, Henry James and a sprinkling of contemporary writers, the Merchant Ivory team has done something which almost counts as revolutionary. It has filmed an original script.

Not that *Jefferson in Paris* breaks the mould in other respects. Ruth Frawer Jhabvala, the company's regular writer, has re-created a time, a place and a set of characters that call forth the usual ingredients. Wigs, hats, parasols and horse-drawn carriages. Flush locations and stately homes: none spandier, surely, than the palace of Versailles, one of various historical sites revisited for this story of Thomas Jefferson's years as French Ambassador during the 1780s, shortly before he became America's third President.

Some ingredients have been enlarged. Thanks to the financial support of the Walt Disney company, Merchant Ivory can now call upon 600 extras, dressed in period finery, and parade them before the camera. It can also call on Nick Nolte, a powerful actor with the kind of face perfectly suited to being chiselled into Mount Rushmore.

The film is fussy and distant in tone, but fascinating material lurks beneath its gilt and brocade. There is the central paradox in Jefferson's character: the man who framed the Declaration of Independence and opposed slavery perpetuated slavery himself at his Virginia plantation. Around Jefferson, France's own revolution is gathering pace. Effigies of finance ministers are burnt in the streets, while at the dinner table Joseph Guilloin demonstrates his new invention decapitating apparatus.

There is also Jefferson's love life, a matter of legend and historical dispute. Did he really father children with Sally Hemings, an attractive young slave, herself the offspring of a liaison between his late wife's father and a mulatto? The film assumes so, and throws Hemings into a tug-of-love game with Maria Cosway, the flirtatious wife of an English painter, Jefferson's elder daughter Patsy, and the memory of his own wife, who died two years before he arrived in Paris in 1784.

But for all this turbulence, you never feel the heat of passion or ideas. James Ivory has always handled emotions with kid gloves, and the film's low temperature is only reinforced by a script that shuffles from one crowded incident to the next without generating any forward motion. Nolte adds his

Jefferson in Paris

Odeon Leicester Square

12, 140 mins

Pretty mounted, but where's the spark?

Rice People

MGM Panton Street

PG, 125 mins

Perfect for art-house vegetarians

Bad Boys

Warner West End

18, 123 mins

Empty action comedy

Silent Fall

Warner West End

15, 101 mins

Drab murder mystery with fancy trappings

In the Mouth of Madness

Warner West End, 15, 95 mins

Quirky horror movie

Fun

Metro, 18, 105 mins

Abrasive drama about two amoral teenagers

own touch of frost. His Jefferson may be a noble thinker and a Renaissance man — a student of architecture, a musician and an inventor — but the dignified facade never reveals the fires that attract Greta Scacchi's roving beauty, or the impudent slave played by Thandie Newton (in her best role since *Flirting*).

So, with its drama placed in cold storage, *Jefferson in Paris*'s spectator must rest content with surface attractions. Aside from Simon Callow, tirelessly minding as the painter Cosway, the performances are adroit, the craftsmanship considerable. We experience the decadence of Louis XVI's court; we visit the opera, ascend in a balloon, and hear dialogue that at least credits us with intelligence. It is some compensation for a frozen, uninvolved film.

If the ringleads and ruffs of Jefferson grate, you can always try *Rice People*, a competition entry at Cannes last year. No fashion accessories are on show; characters have their hands full keeping alive, planting, cultivating and harvesting rice in Cambodia's paddy fields. Rhythmic first feature film, packaged in France but filmed in Cambodia, it pursues a style as simple as the lives he documents: not for nothing do Panh's cinematic gods include Ken Loach and the Iranian Abbas Kiarostami. The

camera watches slowly, or coasts gently over the landscape; only towards the end, when a distracted mother flees into the fields and is imprisoned by villagers in a cage, does the film edge towards spectacle.

Panh's unadorned manner and the script's accretion of daily events demand patience from the viewer. Only then are you rewarded with a film of quiet beauty and sincerity. Panh, now 31, fled Cambodia as a teenager during Pol Pot's regime, and his anguished love for his homeland shines through. Political events appear only indirectly through a dream about the Khmer Rouge; for Panh, the struggle to survive, ward off infection from a thorn in the foot and save the crop from the beaks of birds, is nightmare enough.

Filming provided its own struggle: physical conditions were difficult, and the largely Cambodian crew needed to be trained on the spot. But Panh's non-professional performers grow in confidence as the story develops and grips the heart.

For anyone tired of the usual high-cholesterol Hollywood movie, *Rice People* offers a nourishing vegetarian alternative.

Hollywood fodder returns with *Bad Boys*, a flashy but achingly dull cop drama from producers Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer, who previously gave the world *Beverly Hills Cop* and *Top Gun*. In their new concoction, two Miami cops, one happily married, the other a stud, are forced to swap identities while harbouring a murder witness.

The plot, however, is just a peg for bullets, car chases, street-smart repartee from television stars Martin Lawrence and Will Smith (the impostor in *Six Degrees of Separation*), and exploding barrels of ether. The director is Michael Bay, an award-winning maker of commercials, and the perfect man for the movie equivalent of processed cheese.

Or maybe you fancy a drab murder mystery given some dub-

ious allure by the plot's flirtation with autism and child abuse? Your prayers are answered with *Silent Fall*, another nail in the coffin that director Bruce Beresford seems to be building for himself since *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Black Robe*. Akiva Goldsman's script shows signs of intelligence when Richard Dreyfuss's psychiatrist tries unlocking the memory of an autistic child who saw his parents murdered.

But then stupidities crowd in, and all suspense dies. Nine-year-old Ben Faulkner and 16-year-old Liv Ullmann promise as the autistic boy and his protective sister; for others, this is an assignment best forgotten.

Monster fans get a better deal with John Carpenter's *In the Mouth of Madness*, a messy romp with imaginative flashes, inspired by the macabre universe of writer H.P. Lovecraft. Sam Neill plays a cynical investigator sucked into the imaginary world of a vanished horror novelist who outlives even Stephen King. The special effects

team lay on the oozing worms and putrefying flesh, but the best shocks come from simple tricks: who would have guessed that the nice old lady behind the hotel desk had a naked man chained to her ankle?

Finally, something tasty from the American independent scene. *Fun* is number one! one teenager remarks after a childish prank sparks a senseless murder. Fun indeed: an elderly woman lies dead in her kitchen, blood spattered over the fridge. Luckily the film, called *Fun* for good measure, skirts direct exploitation. James Bosley's script, based on his play, pokes into the aimless lives of two girls held in a detention centre; we switch between black-and-white sessions with a counsellor and an investigative journalist, and colour flashbacks to the day of the murder.

Rafal Zielinski's film struggles too hard to look rough, uncompromising and artistic, but the performances by young Renee Humphrey and Alicia Win are genuinely unnerving.

RADIO

Receiving you loud and unclear

After spending two weeks in the shadow of the French Alps holding a radio over my head in an attempt to summon the English language, I feel like giving a large lunch to the British broadcasting establishment in order to tell them that they are wonderful.

There was a point in the journey south through France when I emitted shouts of joy at the sound of a man from Dagenham, who turned out to be taking part in a phone-in on Talk Radio UK. On the face of it, the fact that Truk was the only sound remotely resembling English I could track down at the time suggests that even ether can suffer from bad taste, but in the circumstances even a shock jock will do.

I finally lost the urge to say anything rotten, ever again, while crossing the Loire river, which is about as far south as you are ever likely to hear Radio 4 on long wave. Was it Brian Perkins I heard saying "Here is the news"? I think it was.

What was the news? Snap, crackle, pop, quack, bang, wallop. No wonder the expatriate British in those parts are looking even grumpier than ever: it is terribly hard to sit at a pavement café for the purposes of moaning about a country when you cannot even hear what the country has to moan about.

Most of my holiday was spent cursing the fact that 648 medium wave may carry the World Service, but the world is one thing and the south of France another planet altogether.

In any event, the World Service has long suffered from the delusion that we love it for its news of Algerian uprisings and east Asian hurricanes. Sure, but where the devil is the cricket score? The World Service ought to stop taking money from the Foreign Office and start taking it from the Sports Council instead.

Back in Britain I got off the ferry (no tunnel, I) in time to catch that modern and perfectly British icon, Joan Littlewood, reading *Joan's Book on Book at Bedtime*.

I expect that in some other week I would have regarded Littlewood's autobiography, interesting and entertaining though it is, as fairly routine, pretty much the recounting of a vivid tale widely decanted by now.

But after a fortnight spent snatching airwaves one by one and tying them together with old coathangers, I could have hugged the unsullied air through which she spoke. Oh, what a lovely woman.

PETER BARNARD

THE TIMES

See a concert or play for 20p



Summer evening music at Mottisfont Abbey in Hampshire. If you are planning an outing on August Bank Holiday weekend offer on open-air concerts and plays could fill the bill. You can take a friend for 20p when you buy a full-price ticket at more than 120 events around the country.

Mottisfont Abbey, in Hampshire, is the setting for Mottisfont Revels from August 25 to 27 (not June as stated in our full listing on Tuesday). For three nights the gardens will be transformed into a world of music, lights and sculpture, culminating in a performance of percussion music by Alasdair Malloy with synchronised fireworks. The theme is magic, with the four performance areas based on the elements of Fire, Earth, Air and Water.

Other Bank Holiday events are scheduled at Arundel Castle, in West Sussex and Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in London.

HOW TO BOOK
A full list of events was printed in Tuesday's newspaper. To book your 20p tickets, collect four tokens from those appearing in *The Times* every day until Monday and telephone the number given for the venue. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for 20p.

JAZZ: Hot fusion guitar and a living link with the glorious past

ANY lingering doubts concerning which camp — jazz or rock — guitarist Pat Metheny belongs in seemed to have been dispelled even before this sell-out concert began. In the foyer, glossy programmes were on sale at inflated prices, and a stall was piled high with tour-souvenir T-shirts; in the hall itself, massive speakers pumped out soft-rock background music, and as the lights dimmed — the regulation 15 minutes late — excited whistles and the odd whoop were heard.

As the concert got into its stride, however, it became increasingly clear that such arbitrary, knee-jerk categorisations were of no relevance to anyone but record-shop managers and the odd jazz journalist. Metheny's band, a septet centred on the guitarist's long-time associate and co-composer, Lyle Mays, on keyboards, has won six consecutive Grammys since 1982 and picks out venues world-

Rock it to 'em

Pat Metheny
Festival Hall

wide, not by fretting about stylistic niceties but by producing highly palatable, attractively airy and uplifting music. Packed with infectious, dreamy, hummable tunes, and adorned with slow-building but surprisingly passionate Metheny solos, the band's two-and-a-half-hour set had an adoring audience on its feet within 50 minutes.

Impeccably arranged and intelligently presented on a two-level stage, which allowed

ace Brazilian percussionist Armando Marcal and self-styled "musical linguists" multi-instrumentalists David Blamires and Mark Ledford, to demonstrate their considerable versatility in full view, the music covered most Metheny bases. Typically, his band would set up a light, bustling sound entwined by Latin percussion and underpinned by Paul Wertico's understated, supple drumming and Steve Rodby's flexible bass, then Metheny would solo at length on everything from Spanish through semi-acoustic to screaming electric guitars.

The band's great strength lies in its textural variety. Blamires and Ledford play everything from guitars and brass instruments to assorted percussion. But it is Mays who sets the tone for each tune, and while not the subtlest of soloists, he is undoubtedly the heart of the Metheny sound.

CHRIS PARKER

Cruising for thrills at 90

Doc Cheatham
New York

A LITTLE miracle takes place whenever Adolphus "Doc" Cheatham — 90 years old this week — arrives on the bandstand at Sweet Basil, the venue that has become something of a second home to him. The very fact that he is still playing trumpet at his age is remarkable enough. But cynics should come and listen: Cheatham's playing remains majestic, a throwback to a more graceful age.

Seventy-odd years ago he was a young hopeful from Tennessee trying to make a name for himself in Chicago: the barnished copper mute that he still uses was a gift from his early idol, King Oliver. Aside from a brief association with Billie Holiday, Cheatham became better

known as a lead trumpeter with Cab Calloway's orchestra. He was 60 before his improvising skills emerged during a stint with one of Benny Goodman's groups.

Trumpeters often show signs of burning out by that stage. Not so Cheatham, who has been making up for lost time ever since he made his major label debut just two years ago with a joyful session issued on the Columbia label.

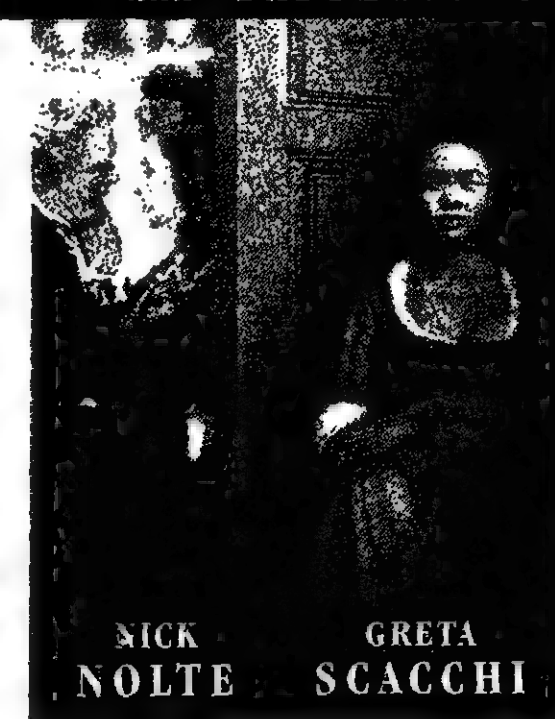
He sensibly avoids putting too much strain on his embouchure, occasionally breaking into a demure, Noel Coward-like vocal which is spoken as

much as sung. His opening number was a dulcet ballad, *My Ideal*, delivered on muted horn, which smoothly flowed into *The Good Life*. At the very beginning a few notes were struck with less than the usual degree of accuracy, but it never takes long for his old instincts to assert themselves.

His backing trio, directed as usual by the pianist Chuck Folds, quickly gathered momentum on *Wolverine Blues*. Cheatham has every excuse to take shelter in the middle register, yet he cheerfully injects thrilling high-note arabesques which are all the more potent for being so meticulously integrated into the melody.

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VISUAL ART

Revealed in Birmingham: how Gainsborough rethought one of his most famous paintings



THEATRE 1

A fresh buzz in Nottingham: the Playhouse responds to a vigorous brush with a new broom

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2

Wit and unease jostle as Irish visitors bring Gina Moxley's fine *Danti-Dan* to Hampstead



MUSIC

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A joint effort by Birmingham and Toronto gives John Russell Taylor a rare insight into the workings of Gainsborough's mind



Double vision: Gainsborough's first version of *The Harvest Wagon*, left, painted in 1767, was not particularly well received and failed to sell. Seventeen years later he returned to his subject, with more complex and magical results

Who made hay twice?

In Victorian times making replicas of contemporary paintings was quite an industry: artists such as Frith or Man Hunt would cheerfully use second or third versions of their more talked-about works to satisfy demand for bigger or smaller or as near as possible the same idea, though, was basically utopian; returning to a scene after 20 years and rethinking completely was seldom an exercised option. But that, a century later, was exactly what Gainsborough did with one of his most famous and influential landscapes, *The Harvest Wagon*.

A fascinating show put together in Birmingham, where it is now, and Toronto, to which it will move, is the whole story of this surprising rethink. These two cities are

where the two versions normally reside, the earlier at the Barber Institute of the University of Birmingham, the later at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Gainsborough painted the first *Harvest Wagon* in 1767, when he was 40 and at a major turning point in his career, really accepted for the first time as a leading figure of his generation and about to become a founder member of the Royal Academy. There is no specific evidence as to why he returned to the theme in 1784-85, though we know he considered the earlier

landscape as "among the best I ever did". At least the second found august appreciation immediately, being bought from the artist by the future George IV in 1786 — although not paid for, it is noted, until 1793.

The first version of *The Harvest Wagon* is undoubtedly a high point in Gainsborough's career. Along with a group of similar but lesser landscapes he painted at the same time (most of them in this show), it marked the completion of a stylistic transition he had been making for several years, from the slightly stiff,

crisply delineated manner of his early portraits-in-a-landscape to the light, feathery, sometimes almost impressionist brush-strokes of his maturity. It is perfectly possible, of course, to prefer the directness and simplicity of the early style, but Gainsborough certainly felt that with this painting he had crossed the Rubicon.

It could be seen as combining all the characteristic elements. He had absorbed the compositional techniques of Rubens, the feeling for light and space of Claude, and the more conventional skills of an 18th-

century portrait painter. And here they were all brought together and fused into something which gave its creator (who always preferred his landscapes painted for love to his portraits painted for a living) deep satisfaction.

At the time the painting does not seem to have been specially noted. Very likely it was the picture favourably referred to by Horace Walpole at the Society of Artists of Great Britain show in 1767, and Francis Wheatley liked it well enough to imitate it, but it remained unsold, and was eventually

given away by Gainsborough in 1774.

Possibly it was a lingering sense that it had not been duly appreciated which sent Gainsborough back to the subject ten years later still when, painting no doubt without the original for reference, he produced the second version. It is by no means a literal copy, but rather a complete rethinking of the same basic materials. The second time, the wagon and its passengers seem to be more absorbed into the landscape, less the main point of the picture. The landscape itself is

more magical and mysterious, seeming to withhold as much as it vouchsafes, and the tonality is richer and more varied, as the composition is more complex.

Though the second version is inevitably less of a landmark, it is difficult not to feel that it is an improvement on the first. As Gainsborough got older he took his technical mastery more as a matter of course, and went more directly to the heart of his subject. It is certainly an education to see the two together, with all the related works. Seldom is one able to observe so directly the workings of an artist's mind.

● Thomas Gainsborough: *The Harvest Wagon* is at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham (0121-235 2334) until July 9. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12.30-5pm.

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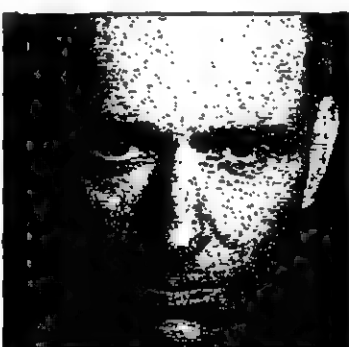
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THEATRE: International wheeling and dealing backstage at the Playhouse; juvenile delinquents onstage in London

The sharing of Nottingham



Martin Duncan: spreading costs

The regions are all the rage. Even the RSC is to ditch the Barbican for half the year, preferring to range outside London. But what of the already established regional theatres? At present, the Nottingham Playhouse has a real buzz about it under the aegis of its new artistic director, Martin Duncan. An impressive polymath — actor, writer, composer and choreographer — his staging of *The Nutcracker* for Adventures in Motion Pictures was nominated for an Olivier Award. Duncan has also directed opera, most lately D'Oyly Carte's acclaimed *Die Fledermaus* and *HMS Pinafore*. This is a man who braves new ground.

Duncan's first season in Nottingham has been a sizeable success, not least for his staging of Gogol's *The Nose*, and RSC director Steven Pimlott's striking vision of Tennessee Williams's *Streetcar*.

Ruth Mackenzie, the Playhouse's executive director, seems over the moon about Duncan. "Martin is a major artist attracting teams of a phenomenally high standard," she says. "The quality of productions has gone through the roof."

THE curtain falls on Gina Moxley's sharp-eyed play to the sound of Irish voices singing sagaciously nothing "Jesus, suffer little children, all the children of the world". But Moxley is not fooled by any cutesy, high-school-prize view of kids at play. She knows they can be remarkably cruel and destructive as they stumble towards emotional self-discovery and sexual maturity.

Her play is staged by the excellent Irish company,

Nottingham, tucked under Sherwood Forest, is international. Pip Broughton, Duncan's predecessor, pulled the Playhouse out of the crippling debt which struck after Richard Eyre's departure for the National. She ended world-class talent to the Midlands, somehow persuading Robert Lepage he would rather spend a week in Nottingham than Barcelona. Last year, the Playhouse caught Peter Brook and accommodated Russia's 90-strong Maly theatre company.

But internationalism is set for further development under Duncan. The Playhouse has moved from hosting to initiating collaborations. Starting tonight, and rounding off Duncan's first six months at the Playhouse, comes *Pinochio*. A family show (sponsored by Boots), it may sound a modest affair but Duncan's production is typically challenging — a bilingual, physical piece. It will be performed with live music and minimal props by Italian actors, the

globe-trotting children's theatre company Teatro Kismet.

Teatro Kismet is co-creating for the first time with British practitioners who, the Italians say, bring calm and security to a show, pushing their technical skills without stamping on the performers' simple style.

After Teatro Kismet, the Playhouse

will see the Romanian director Silviu Purcarete's staging of *The Tempest*, with British performers. There are also plans to turn the venue into a Parisian-style "cultural place to be", with redesigned terrace café.

More importantly, the Playhouse now wants to send its own productions worldwide. *The Nose* has already been picked, so to speak, to represent Britain at this year's international festival in Bucharest. Teatro Kismet will tour Europe, swapping languages en route. In a different kind of border-crossing, Duncan is encouraging other polymaths, particularly those spanning drama and music. He expresses strong regret for the loss of the rep system, and, controversially, favours revivals. "I don't know why revivals are thought bad in theatre," he says. "Wouldn't it be possible for the RSC, say, to recreate Peter Brook's *Dream*? It seems such a waste not to."

For now, he favours co-productions, "so shows don't just have a

four-week life and die, but can be shared with other theatres." Co-production, of course, also spreads the costs.

"What is also sad", Duncan continues, "is that nowadays, unless you are one of the national companies, your actors are transitory. I'd like to create a pool of Playhouse actors. I hope to lure people here to be part of the family atmosphere — 'family' in the best sense, of people sharing a vocabulary, an ideal."

Nottingham's ideal is to be at once international and local. In some ways, the regional theatres have it easier than some in London. The city and county are immensely supportive. Roundabout, a partnership between the Playhouse and the Nottinghamshire education authority, is a flagship for theatre in education. Sponsorship and funding flows from a pride in and concern for the area, but also from European-looking economic nous: the awareness that high-quality arts add business-attracting cachet to any city.

KATE BASSETT

● *Pinochio* opens at the Nottingham Playhouse (0115-941 9419) tonight

Child's play with sharp edges



Sophie Flannery, Eileen Walsh and Dawn Bradfield

Rough Magic, and occurs near Cork in 1970. The period, the all-teenage cast-list and the rural setting combine to suggest an innocence that is and is not reinforced by events. Nobody fully knows what he or she is doing, but what they do ends in one shotgun wedding and one not-quite-accidental death.

At first you feel that an Irish Sharrman Macdonald is writing a gentle comedy, a variation on *When I Was a Girl* I Used to Scream and Shout, about sexual curiosity. Thirteen-year-old Cactus (Sophie Flannery) and 14-year-old Dolores (Eileen Walsh) gossip

and giggle over a "naughty" book. Sixteen-year-old Ber (Dawn Bradfield) convinces herself she is engaged to 18-year-old Noel (Donal Beecher), who wants to push heavy petting as far as he can. Meanwhile, the only non-sexual or pre-sexual character sits jutting down the numbers of passing cars. He is Dan (Alan King), "aged 14 with a

functioning age of eight", as the programme plunkingly puts it.

King cuts a funny, touching figure, dressed as he is somewhere between Boy Scout and Roy Rogers. He clomps owlishly onstage, hitches up a pretend trigger, and fires off his toy revolvers before settling to his task as traffic statistician. But for Cactus his

simplicity is an opportunity. Under the guise of teaching him poker in readiness for a trip to the Wild West she lures him over the wall and starts experimenting with his unmentionable parts.

Moxley writes entertaining dialogue — "this is the sort of place that if you lost your virginity someone would find it and take it to your mother" — and in the first act seems to be over-indulging that talent. But Lynne Parker's production always suggests a danger on the play's edges, and in the second half moves it to the centre. Behind Noel's callow, foul-mouthed swagger there really is a nasty, coarse-minded yob. And Cactus is a disturbing figure, a "wild" girl whose casual sadism does, you feel, presage trouble for those who will fall under her sway in the years ahead.

Flannery plays her beautifully, but then all the performers, though older than their characters, keep disbelief suspended throughout. Is it a pity that the world beyond is evoked only glancingly? In London, where knowledge of the Irish outback cannot be taken for granted, perhaps so. But even here the play's first-hand energy is unmissable.

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مكتبة القاهرة

Exposed on the slopes of the volcano

To write anything at all, you have to run some kind of — maybe invisible — surplus with the world. How Malcolm Lowry ever managed this, still less to the extent of being able to write *Under the Volcano*, one of the great books of the century, is a mystery if anything deepened by reading this first volume of his *Collected Letters*. Surely this was one of the most arduous and exposed careers in 20th-century letters — in the West, anyway.

When, 10 years ago, Penguin last reprinted his *Selected Letters* (now out of print, as indeed Lowry's books are no longer with Penguin), I remember the experience of reading them as being quite different. Selection had, quite justifiably, cut away the long, unavailing, often tedious struggles that made up most of his life, and shown him either on top of his game or interestingly trying to crawl out from under it. Instead of the 700 pages in the *Collected* there were 130 for those two decades, 36 letters instead of 270, and the beginning was his sensational overture to Conrad Aiken, who became a literary father-figure to him: "I have lived only 19 years and all of them more or less badly."

By their very nature, the *Collected Letters* do away with shape and swagger and kindly illusion. The letters them-

selves may not be bleak, but bleakness is what they induce in the reader. In the 22 years I have been reading Lowry, I have never felt as comfortless thinking about him as now. In his dealings with the world — as represented by his correspondents — he comes over as powerless and defenceless and adrift, except for his strange and heroic cheerfulness. Objectively and subjectively, he must have been in a worse position than everyone he wrote to, but (unlike his friend and sometime drinking-partner Dylan Thomas) he never used letters to beg or cheat or cajole.

Without the means to be dignified or independent — most of his life he was a "remittance man", supported by his father and brothers — he behaved with dignity and independence.

The show was easier to keep up in the *Selected*. The sheer bulk of the *Collected Letters* pushes you backstage. The silly punning and general fooling around in the letters is — one now sees — only a thin veneer over despair. Signing off to Aiken — "God bless you, my dear old bird, and Mary. I much admire the poet Jones,

very" (a nod at the Transcendentalist poet Jones Very) — is like seeing a juggler on the pavement. A few pages later, to the same addressee, he hymns his new "supersack on the sea" — and this to the owner of "Forty-one Doors", Massachusetts. His lack of malice or envy seems almost shocking.

Michael Hofmann

SURSUM CORDA!
The Collected Letters
of Malcolm Lowry
Volume One: 1926-46
Edited by Sherrill E. Grace
Jonathan Cape, £35

are writing in one room." His pride is vested in such threadbare circumstances and objects as a letter from the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Tweedsmuir, T.E. Lawrence bothering to keep a copy of his *Ultramarine* in his library, a poem in the *Atlantic*. Dostoevsky could have based a character of Christ on him.

All the time, he was like a man without antibodies. Adversity, or just his usual, shocking bad luck led to repeated quixotic run-ins with authority: when he was turned back at the Canadian front-

ier; when he was in trouble with the immigration police in Mexico; with his father's devious attorneys in LA; with Scribner's, who published his wife Margerie's novel — a thriller — with the last chapter missing. These episodes are related in swollen, preposterous, overloaded, dismayingly equable letters.

But then, from somewhere, there is a miraculous surge of humour and authority: twin phenomena in Lowry. This is most marked in the celebrated "Cape letter" of 1946. In response to the hawking of Jonathan Cape and the suggested cuts of his reader, William Plomer, Lowry wrote a 30-page defence and explication of *Under the Volcano* that has been called the best piece ever written by an author on his own work. Written in Mexico, by Lowry's coincidence in the very house of one of his characters, the day after he had tried to kill himself on receipt of Cape's own letter questioning 10 years of work on one book, it is a humiliatingly brilliant letter (one has to imagine how Plomer must have felt on reading it). Confident, ironic, from first principles, engagingly anxious to follow any argument against himself, amazingly learned, free from bluster, but with modesty and understatement, it is an achievement commensurate with that of the novel itself.



Malcolm Lowry: superb dignity and independence in the face of adversity

Once upon a tome

Brian Alderson

CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE
An illustrated history
Edited by Peter Hunt
OUP, £22.50

Children's books are simple enough things: not so their history. Evidence on their early evolution is fragmentary, and mostly to be found in the libraries of North America. Evidence about more recent periods is a disorderly tumult. And, as Peter Hunt points out in his urbane preface to this new survey, problems of judgment are rife. What common criteria are there for *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Fungus the Bogeyman Flip-Top Book*? Hunt's attempted solution to his quandaries is something of a cop-out. He has contracted the job out to a team of companionable academics who divide the chronology between them in manageable chunks. The result is what 18th-century publishers of children's books were inclined to call "an olio" — a hodge-podge of worthy comestibles. Every period has its peculiar flavours, and Hunt's stewardship is directed at getting his team to make these plain and to demonstrate the social, educational, and commercial influences that lie behind them.

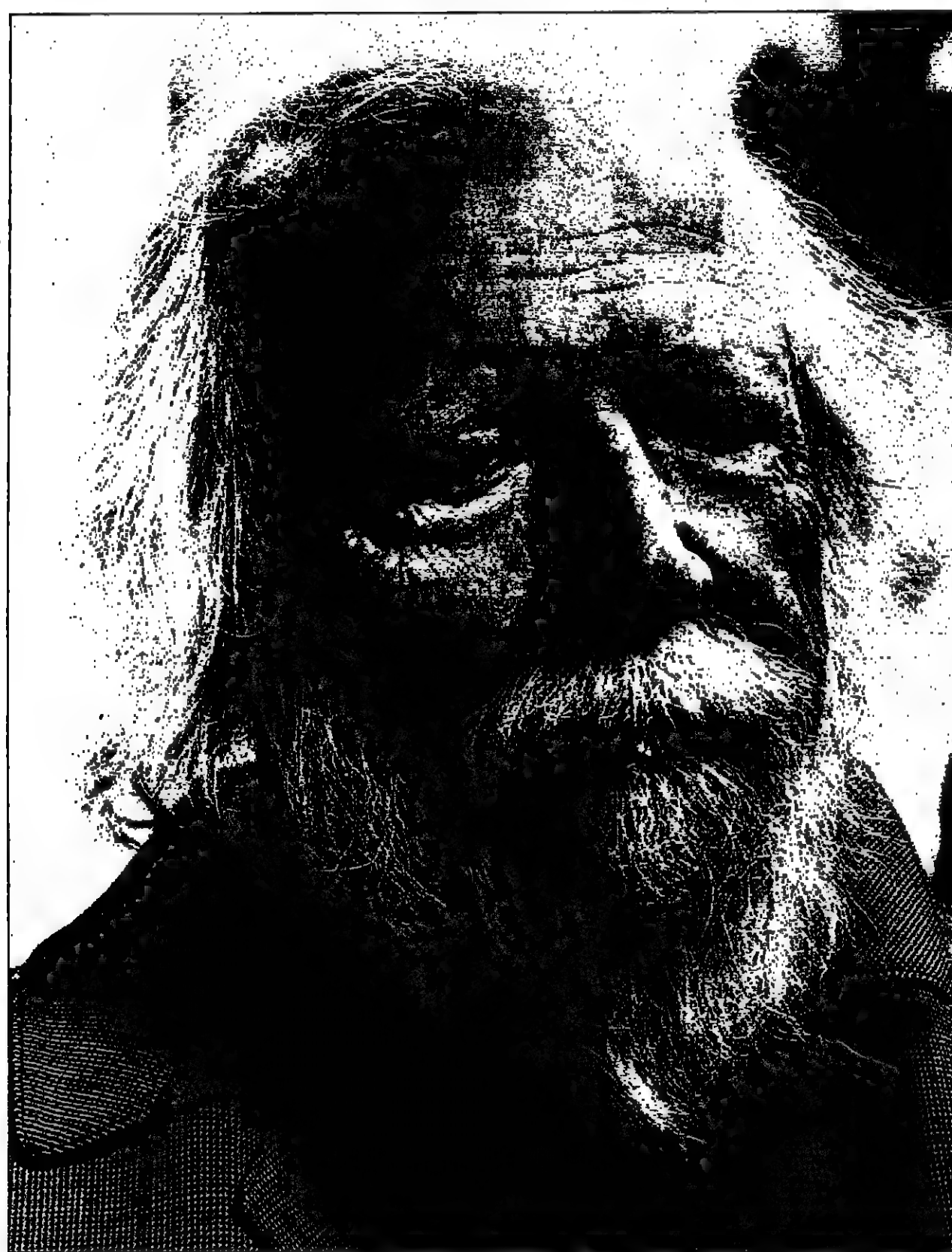
Many curiosities are brought to light as proof of how hospitable children's books may be to outlandish experiment, whether it is John Hart inventing a Shavian system of spelling reform in 1570, or Joan Aiken, in 1962, putting the Stuarts back on the English throne in a 19th-century that never was. Mary Lennox is seen as a ghostly presence in "Burnt Norton", or *der Tod* behind the mask of Mr Tod (not perhaps something intended by Mrs Heelis). And we hear stern voices off-stage, condemning the young for reading books of "fayred chaulerie", or primly noting the absence of women and the working classes in *The Wind in the Willows*.

Team composition does not make for much coherence over the span of the centuries, though — nor for a consistent readability. There is a rather mournful emphasis on those stories for older readers which lend themselves to interpretation in social terms (not much room for fun in all this). After 1914 it tends to degenerate into little more than an annotated catalogue of authors and titles.

Nor has full use been made of the lavish provision of illustrations. With nearly 250 pictures in colour and black and white, Hunt had the unprecedented opportunity to integrate a study of writing for children with a study of how artists respond to texts and how their work is governed by the available technologies. Instead he went for the coffee-table option, with decoration taking precedence over demonstration, and with the pictures often begit by casual or erroneous descriptions.

Hints of pertinent questions (how many children's books had young F.R. Leavis?) reverberate throughout the book. It comes to resemble Norman Lindsay's inexhaustible Magic Pudding, who kept urging his consumers to cut and come again. The historical dimensions of children's literature are seen to be so broad and the quantity of unexamined evidence so large that you can't any more fit everything into a single, unmagical pot.

Philip Howard lauds the late William Golding, whose last novel, though unfinished, shows all his Pythian guile



Golding: a remarkable storyteller and moralist, his period as a teacher left him with an abiding love of the classics

ZOE TEALE seems to be an incurable romantic, with a touching commitment to Anglo-Japanese relations. Back home after a post-university year spent in Japan, she has written a first novel about the bittersweet memories of a university graduate named Anna during the year she spent in Japan as a high school English teacher in the northern city of Sendai.

If we take Anna to be Zoe, we are to understand that Teale had a strangely troubled time in Japan. The book begins as a whimsical travel memoir, but ends as a pained love letter to an older, married Japanese man, who is touchingly referred to throughout in the Japanese fashion as *Moriya Sensei* — literally Teacher Moriya.

Moriya is one of Anna's fellow English teachers at the high school, a figure as much of fun as of pity, who embodies all the self-conscious attributes of the Japanese man who wants to be Anglophile and has toiled laboriously to achieve this. He knows a thing or two about the British Museum: he likes shortbread, Harrods and Burberry coats; he reads Wordsworth, Shakespeare and Byron. During the course of the academic year he develops a jealous kind of worship for Anna, the prettiest and most highly-prized sample of England whom he tries to add to his collection.

The story of Moriya's growing passions and Anna's un-

A Miss Butterfly of today

Joanna Pitman

SIR PHOEBUS'S MA
By Zoe Teale
Phoenix House, £14.99

certain understanding either of them or of her own response is carefully placed in a context of the utmost banality. It is structured around the quotidian concerns of a Japanese high school staff room — teaching schedules, festivals, lunchtime canteen exchanges, staff outings — all given with little tensions because of the unaccustomed presence of a foreigner.

But the growing burden of Moriya Sensei's idolatry for Anna defies wins over the reader's sympathy for the narrator herself. For anyone who has spent time living with or close to a Japanese family in Japan, the story rings agonisingly true, prompting in my case a strange masochistic dredging of teenage memories that matches, rather disconcertingly, the scenes of Anna trapped as the object of curiosity, foreign woman

dressed up in kimono, foreign woman praised for her mastery with chopsticks, foreign woman poked, prodded, fed, paraded in the streets and looked upon with wonder as if she were some kind of expensive imported doll. Foreign woman boiling with irritation. Teale evokes all the memories with consummate ease but fails back too often on Anna's adolescent activities ("I wondered why I had come here... I was scared of not living") and the endless and unresolved struggles with her conscience over the possible innocence of Moriya's intentions and guilt at her uncertain rejections. Herein lies the culture clash that comes with every book about Japan. But Teale's is a clever confection of multi-layered struggles — a 22-year-old woman's grappling with her identity, her first lengthy solo spell abroad, her first contact with such an alien culture, her first misinterpreted love affair.

If the story occasionally lapses into what seems like a cynical inventory of funny stories about the Japanese, it has many tender moments and — when Anna is allowed to do a little fun poking of her own — a sharp-edged wit too. The legions of aspiring English teachers who head for Japan every year will enjoy its familiarity and its humour, but so will those who simply like to indulge themselves with the tale of a tortured young romantic.

Bad karma in the mother's land

Sunetra Gupta

JOURNEY TO
ITHACA
By Anita Desai
Heinemann, £13.99

In the summer of 1975, Sophie and Matteo, having first married to pacify their tearful and lamenting parents, left for India, dressed in blue jeans and T-shirts and sports shoes, carrying identical rucksacks on their backs, as did many of their generation in Europe. It is at this point, towards the end of the prologue of Anita Desai's new novel, that the reader feels as if his hand, gliding across a pleasantly scratched marble surface, dips suddenly into mud.

For while Matteo's childhood among the camellias and fountains in Northern Italy is evoked with much grace, his subsequent quest for truth in India reads like an indifferent catalogue of various conditions of filth and decay. Sophie is soon fed up with the squalor and wants to "go to Goa and eat shrimp... And lie in the sun and shampoo my hair and eat omelettes all day", but Matteo insists on journeying towards the "real" India.

Both come across as spiritually impoverished. She is cursed with a complete lack of imagination, while he is obsessed with the most superficial aspects of the Hindu faith, and ultimately accepts it in its most mangled condition at the feet of a coquettish and self-indulgent guru who styles himself "The Mother".

Besotted by the nectar of her spirit, Matteo rapidly becomes a pawn in The Mother's lively enterprise. Sophie, for no apparent reason other than that she keeps getting pregnant, shares his strange life at the Mother's ashram, until the children are old enough to be taken back to Europe. She returns to Matteo's side when he falls gravely ill, and resolves to trace the Mother's history, if only to demystify her to Matteo.

The narrative, thus, at Sophie's initiative, takes a curious leap back into the earlier part of this century and deposits us in the dusty streets of Alexandria where the Mother begins her life as Laila, the restless daughter of two Egyptian academics. She is sent to Paris to be cured of her restlessness, where we watch her rebel childishly against bourgeois etiquette and reject the custom of eating animal flesh. In a small shop where people go surreptitiously to buy the *Kama Sutra*, she finds a poster advertising "Dances et Musiques Hindoues par



Anita Desai: a sense of void

Krishna Raja et sa Troupe" and discovers her true self in the consonance between "Lila" — the divine frolicking of the Lord Krishna with his several lady friends — and her own name Laila.

Laila joins Krishna Raja's troupe and in three months miraculously masters their technique, replaces the lead dancer, and eventually returns with them to India, after a brief period of disenchantment in New York where they are forced to vulgarise their production to meet the demands of the American public. Laila's mysterious acquisition of a skill that her most dancers would require a lifetime of devotion is a useful metaphor

for the instant spiritual ecstasy that both she, and later Matteo, seek in India. Desai has delineated this petty quest with frivolous pseudo-spiritual intercourse, as well as elaborate reconstructions of the diaries and poems of the young Laila as she transmogrifies into the Mother. These diaries are discovered by Sophie in an old tin trunk in the aged Krishna Raja's apartment, which is the only point where she actively participates in the telling of this fantastic tale. For, although she arrives at the conclusion of each episode in Laila's life at the same place, where such events took place, past does not interdigitate with present in any meaningful way.

At the end of the journey, Sophie is left with a sense of void. Meanwhile, the Mother dies, and Matteo disappears into the wilderness. One realises, only then, that his journey is not yet begun.

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How the Church found its militant

Pope John Paul II is a man who inspires strong feelings of conflicting kinds. Hence the tone of biographies hitherto published in Britain has reflected their authors' sympathies, from Paul Johnson to Michael Walsh. This major new biography by the Polish-American Tad Szulc, a reporter for *The New York Times*, at first promises to be an exception.

Although it is not an authorised biography, Szulc tells us that the Pope's encouragement gave him unprecedented access to both people and papers as he retraced step by step the path taken by the young Karol Wojtyla to the throne of St Peter in Rome. And yet, John Paul II's warning to Szulc at the outset that "a biography must be more than dates, facts and quotations, reaching the person's heart, soul, thoughts..." suggests a premonition that for all his professionalism and knowledge of the Polish language, Szulc might fail to do just that.

Karol Wojtyla was born the son of a low-ranking army officer. His mother, the daughter of a Krakow upholsterer, died when he was eight; his older brother, a doctor, when he was 12. Wojtyla was raised in genteel poverty by his honourable and pious father in the town of Wadowice. His studies in philosophy at Krakow's Jagiellonian University were interrupted by the war and the German occupation of Krakow. Professors and priests were deported to concentration camps. Szulc brings home the future Pope's first-hand experience of the Nazis. Krakow was close to Auschwitz, Wadowice closer still.

It was not until the age of 20 that Wojtyla decided that he had a priestly vocation. The then Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow, Prince Sapieha, recognised his exceptional qualities, and sent the newly ordained Wojtyla to study in Rome after the war. When he returned to Poland, a mix of academic work and pastoral experience set him on course to become a bishop in 1958 and Archbishop of Krakow in 1962.

Szulc's coverage of the Polish period of Wojtyla's life is excellent. Clearly, it is Wojtyla as a Polish national hero that interests him most. He has uncovered a fascinating report by the Polish secret police on the differences between Wojtyla and the Polish primates, Cardinal Wyszyński, and a plan devised by the Soviet Central Committee to discredit the Vatican under John Paul II. Reluctantly, Szulc admits that while Wojtyla "unquestionably played a part in accelerating the march of events, at least in terms of the national psychology", he was not instrumental in the downfall of communism in Eastern Europe, let alone the Soviet

Piers Paul Read

POPE JOHN PAUL II

The Biography

By Tad Szulc

Scribners, £17.99

THE POPE'S

ARMADA

By Gordon Urquhart

Bantam, £16.99

THE JESUITS

A Story of Power

By Alain Woodrow

Chapman, £15.99

Union. He accepts the Pope's own assessment that "Communism as a system fell by itself... as a consequence of its own errors and abuse".

Less satisfactory are those chapters which deal with Karol Wojtyla as Vicar of Christ. His intellectual development is given scant attention: either Szulc feared that he would be out of his depth, or that the Pope's philosophical ideas would be too difficult for the general reader to comprehend. He recommends *The Mind of John Paul II* by George Hunston Williams.



Wojtyla: the Polish Pope

but few of the insights of that excellent work are found here.

His treatment of Wojtyla's religious teaching is even more superficial: most of the Encyclicals are not mentioned at all. He describes how Wojtyla influenced two areas of Catholic teaching even before he became Pope, first at the time of Vatican II on the question of religious freedom and human rights, contributing to the decree *Gaudium et Spes*. The second was on marriage and sexual ethics.

Here, Szulc has something of a scoop. Impressed by his book *Love and Responsibility*, Pope Paul VI appointed Wojtyla to the group formed to advise him on the morality of birth control. Szulc reveals that Wojtyla — absent from the crucial meeting that decided by a majority to suggest a change in the Church's teaching — later advised Paul VI to reject this advice and wrote a draft of the Encyclical that became *Humanae Vitae*.

While Szulc approves of the Pope's line on human rights, he balks at his teaching on birth control. He acknowl-

edges the Pope's "extraordinary intellectual power" but writes of his "dogmatic rigidity" and "theological inflexibility". He tells us that there is a "contradiction between theological conservatism and progressive social justice" without explaining why. He wonders if Wojtyla is leading the Church "back to pre-Vatican II", judging it unfortunate that, as Archbishop of Krakow, he did not "take advantage of the relatively relaxed travel... to get better acquainted with American realities", as if this would somehow have brought him round to collegiality, condoms and women priests.

There is evidence of the same secular presumptions when he writes about Wojtyla's apparent coolness towards Liberation Theology in general and the late Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero, in particular. His superficial treatment of this topic is doubly disappointing because Szulc — Castro's biographer — is supposedly an expert on Latin America.

There are also some startling omissions. He says nothing about last year's publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, one of the most significant achievements of this pontificate, nor about the Pope's patronage of lay movements such as the Neocatechumenate, Communion and Liberation and Focolare — now the principal sources of growth in the Church.

These are, however, described in *The Pope's Armada* by Gordon Urquhart, who spent nine years with the Focolare movement, which he now castigates along with the others as a dangerous sect. He gives some useful facts but the horror stories are of the kind that have always been told about religious movements (viz. Diderot's *Story of a Nun*).

None was more vilified than the Society of Jesus until, following Vatican II, it shifted the emphasis of its endeavour from faith to good works, preaching a "social" Gospel that was not just intelligible to the sceptical secular mind but found favour with John Paul II's liberal critics. Alain Woodrow, for years *Le Monde's* religious correspondent, has written a good book on the Jesuits, half a potted history, half an analysis of what they are up to now. Again, he betrays an element of bias in favour of "progressive" Catholicism, but he also fills out certain gaps in Szulc's book. He reveals that both Paul VI and John Paul I were appalled by the direction taken by the Jesuits. It is an emphatic manifestation of John Paul II's extraordinary self-assurance that in 1981, for the first time in the Society's history, he suspended its constitution and appointed a personal delegate, Fr Paulo Dezza, to bring the Jesuits to heel.

Alistair Horne examines the evidence for and against Churchill's foreign policy



Rival visions: Churchill, father of the Atlantic Alliance, meets Eden, whose hopes of a return to balance-of-power diplomacy were dashed at Suez

John Charmley is an unabashed revisionist.

His last book — *Churchill: The End of Glory* (now in Scribner paperback) — over-trumps as it was by Alan Clark, did not exactly bring down the curtain on Churchill's "glory", but it deserved more serious study than it got. Now *Churchill's Grand Alliance* is precisely what the title describes. The dates selected also conveniently fit Charmley's thesis: 1940 was when Churchill first "deceived himself" into inventing the mythology of the Special Relationship; 1957, when the bill for Suez was presented, was the year it was revealed to be a hollow sham.

Well, was it? Is it? Historians will argue for years; though it certainly seems fashionable, in the aftermath of the Cold War, to take the line that it never existed — or counted for nothing.

Put simply, Charmley believes that Britain would have done better to sue for peace and quit the war in 1940-41. "Churchill knew better", but allowed himself to be constantly duped by Roosevelt and American good-intentions. Churchill — willingly — came to confuse the myth of the "Special Relationship", which he had created, with an identity of war aims between Washington and London.

In endeavouring to restore the mythical "Special Relationship" after Suez, Macmillan was no less of a self-deceiver. In the prewar world of appeasement, it was Chamberlain — his foreign policy "marked by an acknowledgment of the limits of British power" — not Churchill, who got it right.

A Machiavellian Roosevelt is the villain of the piece. He had his own, anti-colonialist, "secret agenda" for the post-war world, but Churchill had none. More acceptably villainous is FDR's hard-faced Secretary of the Treasury, Morgenthau, who — in his deep distrust of the British Empire — conspired with the President to reduce Britain's dollar reserves to below \$1 billion.

Churchill is also castigated for his failure to think beyond victory: "To leave the formulation of war aims until the war is won is good strategy but only if you are the strongest partner in an alliance." If Charmley has a hero, it is the wartime Anthony Eden, in whom he discovers "an unsuspected reputation as a seer". At last Eden has a champion. Unlike Churchill, he "was preparing the way for a post-war settlement in Europe, which would not be determined by American devices and desires... Eden's post-war world was not that different from the prewar one." The future of France was central.

Of course, Charmley recognises, there "would be a price, and Eden was willing to put moral considerations on one side in order to pay it". Part of the bill was Yalta. As of 1942, Eden is quoted in a moment of almost visionary gloom: "... we shall have fought this war to no purpose, and the mastery of Europe which we have refused to Germany by force of arms will pass to her by natural succession as soon as the control of our arms is removed." At one point he considered handing over for-

ign policy to Churchill, and going off to India as Viceroy.

But would a return to Eden's traditional prewar world of balance-of-power juggling, apart from providing jobs for diplomats, have achieved a better peace than the 50 years of Pax Americana which we have just celebrated? It did not do so in the first four decades of this century.

These are among the many questions thrown up by Charmley's deeply researched book. Of course, Churchill may be reproved for his "myopia" in not having a postwar blueprint to sell the Americans in 1941-42. But were these not the very worst months of the

evoked the response: "You're only saying that to be provocative. You know very well we couldn't have made peace on the heels of a terrible defeat. The country wouldn't have stood for it. And what makes you think that we could have trusted Hitler's word — particularly as he could soon have had Russian resources behind him? At best we would have been a German client state, and there's not much in that."

Charmley concludes with the thought (Eden's) that perhaps we should have done better for ourselves if we had been more "contumacious", like de Gaulle, with the Americans. Indeed, as of 1995, there is deep irony when one examines in retrospect the fulfilment of Allied war aims, and not only Britain's: the Soviet Union has ended up dismembered, with Russia weaker than at any time since the Tsars; America under Clinton wields about as much prestige in the world as it did under President Harding. Only France, largely thanks to de Gaulle, has come close to achieving its war aims.

For one of the war generation, it is depressing to be told that it was all not worth the candle, and one turns with something like joyous relief to *Long Sunset*, Anthony Montague Browne's utterly engaging account of his 13 years with Churchill at the end of the latter's life. The author's friends (of whom I must declare myself as one) have waited long for this account, and they will not be disappointed. It is full of wit, mischief, affection — and, at the end, great sadness. It dispatches a number of legends; one that Churchill was completely gaga in his last years, and, two, that he was frequently inebriated.

Instead of the brutal figure sending thousands of young soldiers to their deaths to murder German civilians (a view that now threatens to take root), a man of deep emotions emerges: "I blub an awful lot, you know," he apologised as he wept before the list of the war dead at Boodles. Of recent topicality, and graphically depicted here, is the constant money trouble that beset the ever-extravagant war-leader, unworried by his grateful nation. As Mary Soames writes in a generous foreword, nobody apart from her mother saw more of Churchill from 1952 onwards than Montague Browne. Typical of a light-hearted modesty throughout is his description of long, frightening flights in a Beaufighter over Japanese-held Burma, without a word of how he came to win the DFC. At the

end he mentions in one sentence the heart-breaking burglary, during his absence at Churchill's funeral, which cost him all the precious memorabilia of that relationship.

Dedication to Churchill undoubtedly cost Montague Browne a brilliant career in the Foreign Office. But he allows himself only one bitter line: "In the nature of things, it will be two years at the most," Harold Macmillan told him

on his secondment in 1952, "and we won't forget you."

When a politician says that, Montague Browne observes, "you should write yourself off totally and without delay". His recompense was a CBE.

He reveals himself adept at characterisation in a sketch of his first boss in the FO, the eccentric "Moley" Sargent. When a forgetful Montague Browne committed the blunder of forgetting to pass on an invitation to lunch with King George VI, Sargent's only reproach was: "Another free meal gone west!"

But the central figure is, and remains, the old leader — endearing, infuriating and never boring in what Macmillan called his "anecdotes", but saddening in his final decline. Like Charmley, Montague Browne has strong opinions which he is never afraid to voice. Out of his book emerges so fresh a portrait as to make one fear how Churchill will fare once the eyewitnesses are gone. Then it will all be left to the dons.

THE TIMES / DILLONS FORUM

in association with the Social Market Foundation

The road from serfdom

'The politics and economics of post-communism' — an evening of discussion with Robert Skidelsky



THE challenges which face the post-communist world will be discussed by Robert Skidelsky at a Times/Dillons forum on Tuesday, June 27. He will explore the themes raised in his latest book, *The World After Communism*, in which he charts the rise and fall of collectivism and outlines a strategy to prevent its re-emergence.

The key, Lord Skidelsky argues, is to develop a new "constitution of liberty", one which recognises the need for the state to offer a secure framework for markets, but which also limits the ambitions of the state to those tasks for which people are prepared to pay in common.

Daniel Johnson, Literary Editor of *The Times*, will chair the forum, which will be held at Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1 on Tuesday, June 27 at 7.30 pm. Tickets at £10 each (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of Lord Skidelsky's book, are available by calling 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons the Bookstore, 32 Gower Street, London WC1, where tickets can also be purchased in person.

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a group of people in a laboratory or classroom setting. A person in the foreground is seated and working on a device, while others stand behind them, observing. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost binary appearance.

THE GOOD news for post-graduates is that Government bursaries and studentships are to go up by 2.5 per cent at a time when undergraduate grants are being cut. The bad news is that few students will benefit.

Most of those taking Masters courses in the new academic year will either finance themselves or find a sponsor from the variety of charities and research councils. They will not even qualify for student loans.

The Education Department's bursaries cover a tightly-defined range of full-time professional and vocational courses. The subjects include art and design, archaeology, archive administration, drama, European studies, interpreting and translation, law, librarianship and information science, media studies and theology.

The 660 bursaries are allocated selectively to universities and colleges, which award them on a competitive basis.

The department also administers some 63 studentships in librarianship and information science.

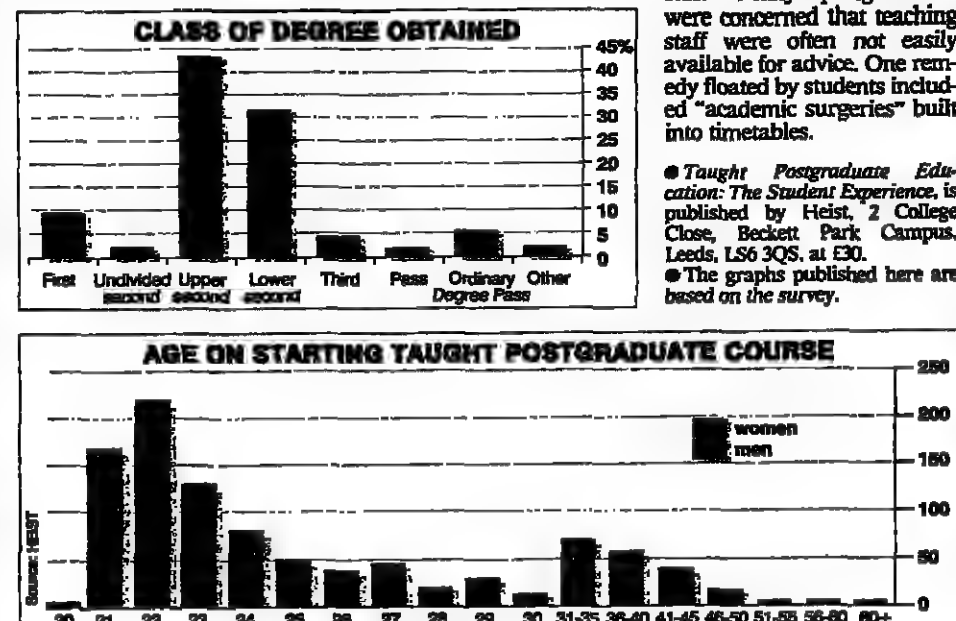
The British Academy makes similar awards in the humanities, and the research council awards studentships in the sciences.

For 1995-96, with last year's amounts in brackets, are

Bursaries
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TOMORROW

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Continued
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Second Degree: The Times guide to postgraduate courses

Executive and Management Development Programmes: For Executive MSc, MBA, Certificate, Diploma, 12FT, 24FT, 36FT, 48FT, 60FT, 72FT, 84FT, 96FT, 108FT, 120FT, 132FT, 144FT, 156FT, 168FT, 180FT, 192FT, 204FT, 216FT, 228FT, 240FT, 252FT, 264FT, 276FT, 288FT, 300FT, 312FT, 324FT, 336FT, 348FT, 360FT, 372FT, 384FT, 396FT, 408FT, 420FT, 432FT, 444FT, 456FT, 468FT, 480FT, 492FT, 504FT, 516FT, 528FT, 540FT, 552FT, 564FT, 576FT, 588FT, 600FT, 612FT, 624FT, 636FT, 648FT, 660FT, 672FT, 684FT, 696FT, 708FT, 720FT, 732FT, 744FT, 756FT, 768FT, 780FT, 792FT, 804FT, 816FT, 828FT, 840FT, 852FT, 864FT, 876FT, 888FT, 900FT, 912FT, 924FT, 936FT, 948FT, 960FT, 972FT, 984FT, 996FT, 1008FT, 1020FT, 1032FT, 1044FT, 1056FT, 1068FT, 1080FT, 1092FT, 1104FT, 1116FT, 1128FT, 1140FT, 1152FT, 1164FT, 1176FT, 1188FT, 1200FT, 1212FT, 1224FT, 1236FT, 1248FT, 1260FT, 1272FT, 1284FT, 1296FT, 1308FT, 1320FT, 1332FT, 1344FT, 1356FT, 1368FT, 1380FT, 1392FT, 1404FT, 1416FT, 1428FT, 1440FT, 1452FT, 1464FT, 1476FT, 1488FT, 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
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5000 ext 4940

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Court of Appeal

Dependency of reconciled ex-wife

Shepherd v Post Office
Before Lord Justice Balcombe,
Lord Justice Otton and Lord
Justice Aldous
[Judgment June 9]

A divorced woman who remarried but then returned to live with her first husband, was held to be a widow under section 1(3)(a) of the Fatal Accidents Act 1976, as amended by the Administration of Justice Act 1982, of being his dependant as a former wife and did not have to show that she had lived with him in the same household for the last two years prior to his death as his wife under section 1(3)(b) of the 1976 Act.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Post Office from Judge John Baker, Q.C., who had found in favour of the Queen's Bench Division on January 18, 1984, on a preliminary issue held that the plaintiff, Mrs Pamela Carol Shepherd was a "dependant" of the deceased, Paul Lawrence Sheville within the meaning of section 1(3)(a).

Section 1 of the 1976 Act, as amended, provides: "(3)... 'dependant' means: (a) the wife or husband or former wife or husband of the deceased; (b) any person who immediately before the death of the deceased had been living with the deceased in the same household for at least two years before that death; and (c) any person who during the whole of that period as the wife or husband of the deceased."

Mr Christopher Carling for the Post Office Miss Anne Wakefield for Mrs Shepherd.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the plaintiff had married Paul Breslin in 1973 and parted from him in 1981. She was subsequently remarried in 1982. The following month the plaintiff married Ian Shepherd. There was a child of each marriage. The plaintiff separated from Mr Shepherd in 1982 and the following year she commenced cohabitation with her first husband.

In 1989 Mr Breslin was involved in an accident with a Post Office lorry and died later of his injuries. In 1990, after the death of Mr Breslin, a decree absolute of divorce was granted between Mrs Shepherd and Mr Shepherd was declared.

The Post Office had admitted liability to pay damages to the plaintiff's child but denied that the plaintiff was entitled to damages as a defendant.

The court said that the plaintiff was not entitled under section 1(3)(a) as she had ceased to be a former wife when she remarried. At the time of Mr Breslin's death she was still married to Mr Shepherd, and was known to Mrs Shepherd and her child in common sense and use of the English language be described as the former wife of Mr Breslin".

Further, the inclusion of divorced wives within section 1(3)(a) did not entitle a divorced wife who subsequently remarried and that, as the plaintiff had not lived with the deceased for two years

immediately preceding his death under section 13(b), she had no claim under the Act.

In the 1976 Act, as amended, the list of dependants now comprises the spouse or former spouse of the deceased; including a person whose marriage had been annulled or declared void; any person who was living as the husband or wife of the deceased in the same household immediately before the death and had been so living for at least two years before the death; any parent or ascendant of the deceased; any person who was treated by the deceased as his or her child or adopted child of the deceased, including a child en ventre sa mère; any person who had been treated by the deceased as a child of the family in relation to any marriage of the deceased and who was the issue of a brother, sister, uncle or aunt of the deceased.

A relationship of affinity was treated as a relationship by consanguinity, a relationship by the half-blood, as a relationship of the full-blood, and a relationship of any person as his child. An illegitimate person was to be treated as the child of his mother and reputed father.

All such "dependants" were not, as such and without more, entitled to claim damages from a tortfeasor who caused the relevant death. They also had to prove a dependency in fact under section 3 of the 1976 Act.

McGregor on Damages [51b

that many countries outside the common law have encountered no difficulty in casting the ambit of recovery as widely as this and dispensed for the most part with *Clark v Lindsey* on Torts (16th edition (1989) paragraph 6/11) observed: "Although the list of dependants is now a wide one, it is still capable of causing hardship, which calls into question the need for a restriction beyond financial dependency."

His Lordship would respectfully agree with both observations. It was difficult to see that there was any need for the narrow interpretation of the subsection introduced by the *Family Law Act 1985*. To do so would undoubtedly cause hardship in the instant case.

He too would question whether there was any need for such an elaborate listing of entitled dependants. He would have thought that if Parliament were persuaded to provide that any person was entitled to a claim who could show a relationship of dependency and to dispense with the lists.

To the question whether a remarried woman in the category of a dependant did not mean that the necessity had a dependency. The spouse's entitlement was determined by the two stage process to which relevance had been made.

Thus, in a case like the present, where there had been a divorce, the wife remarried, the second marriage turned out to be a mistake, or where the second husband died straight away, and the former wife returned to the former husband, the wife would not be entitled to

Kirby-Harris v Baxter and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Evans
[Judgment June 13]

A claim by defendants to a libel action that they had acted bona fide so as to be entitled to the protection given them by section 265 of the Public Health Act 1875 in relation to the issue of fact which was in practice the same as the question of malice.

As such, the claim was not to be determined as a preliminary issue in the proceedings by a judge alone. To do so would erode the right of the plaintiff to trial by jury under section 69 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an *interlocutory appeal* by the plaintiff, Abigail Ann Kirby-Harris and discharging the order made by Mr Justice Beldan on July 1, 1994, for the trial of a preliminary issue by a judge as to whether the publication by the defendants, the five non-executive directors of the Cornwall Healthcare Trust, of a statement that was said to impute incompetence to the plaintiff as chairman of that trust, was made bona fide for the purposes of escaping the National Health

Secondary

Neilbams v Sandells Maintenance Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord

Service Act 1977 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990.

Mr Desmond Browne, QC, for the plaintiff; Mr Geoffrey Shaw, QC, for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the fibel action arose out of the controversial appointment in April 1993 of the plaintiff as chairman of the trust.

In November 1993 a written statement that imputed to the plaintiff her incompetence and impropriety as chairman was published by the defendants to five British Members of Parliament and later appeared in three newspapers.

The defendants claimed the protection of section 265 of the 1875 Act which, as applied to their case by later legislation, provided that any claim not be subjected personally to any action, liability or claim in respect anything done bona fide for executing the 1990 Act.

The judge acceded to their application for the availability of that protection to be made the subject of a preliminary issue to be tried by a jury alone.

The plaintiff submitted, inter alia, that the issue was not preliminary.

Employer

the decision of Judge Newman, QC, in Canterbury County Court in December 1993 that they pay in

may, it raised substantially the whole of the issue in the action. She said that she was entitled to have her action tried by a jury and that she would be deprived of that right if the defendants' section 25 points were to be tried as a preliminary issue.

The significant feature of the preliminary issue was that it raised the question of bona fides, a very important question in the case as a whole. That was because the question whether the defendants' bona fide was indistinguishable from the question whether they were actuated by malice.

Mr Shaw accepted that whatever the distinction there might be, the two questions were for practical purposes the same.

On the assumption that there was evidence to go to them, the question of malice in an action for libel was quiescently a question for a jury. It was, however, the constitutional right to the decision of questions of fact by a jury, a right recognised and reinforced by *Ross v. The Times* (1972), no one could suggest that such a right was to be sacrificed to the judge except as provided for by section 69(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, a provision having no application to the instant case.

Liable after

Defendants' supervisor to use a ladder to do painting work high up and in a place where a mobile

Mr Browne accepted that the judge had a discretion in the matter but it was asserted that it was closely circumscribed by the *Mainland's* right to have questions of fact decided by a jury. That right, it was said, was not just another factor to be weighed in a general balance but was a principle of law which ought to be decisive.

Mr Browne said that section 65 did not, as had been suggested on the defendants' side, confer an immunity from suit on those who were entitled to its protection. It simply, he said, gave them a special defence and they had no right to have it adjudicated on before trial and they would lose nothing by having to wait until then.

The submission was correct. It was an error of principle for the judge to direct trial by judge alone at a preliminary issue involving a question of fact which was in essence the same as the question of malice, a question which the plaintiff was entitled to have determined by a jury.

Lord Justice Evans gave a concurring judgement.

Solicitors: Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners; Bevan Ashford, Bristol.

Law Report June 15 1995



Court of Appeal



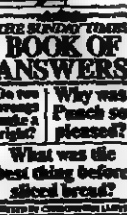
Statutory defence is a jury point

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When court should grant stay of execution

Lord of Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Finnanc
[Judgment June 13]
death penalty cases if a constitutional motion was filed which would be a real issue for determination, the courts should grant a writ of certiorari prohibiting the issuing out of a sentence of death pending the determination of the constitutional motion, including findings of appeal, but there was automatic right to a stay in all such cases.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in granting certiorari order directing that sentence of death passed upon appellants, Thomas Rackley, be carried out within seven days of the determination of the appeal in another case, and the

Dual damage
to Gill
Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice

[Judgment June 7]
human law damages could be awarded against a landlord for breach of covenant in addition to the award made against him for breach of covenant for loss of occupation under sections 27 and 28 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1988.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the landlord, Gurnamal Singh Gill, from the decision of Judge Orme in Dudley District Court on March 18, 1994, awarding the tenant, Dajin Kaur,

...ent hearing of the petitioner's application for a writ of *habeas corpus* was postponed over until after the determination of that appeal.

The Court of Appeal of The Bahamas had dismissed the petitioner's appeal from the refusal of the Supreme Court to grant a writ of *habeas corpus* pending a hearing of a constitutional motion to the Supreme Court which alleged that the carrying out of the sentence would be unconstitutional.

Mr Timothy Straker for the petitioner; Sir Godfrey Le Queue, QC and Mr Bernard Turner, Assistant Director of legal affairs, The Bahamas, for the prosecution.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that if it was demonstrated that the constitutional motion was plainly and obviously bound to fail those proceedings would be vexatious and could be struck out.

It could be demonstrated to the

gates against

...reaches of the covenant for quiet enjoyment and damages for £15,000 under sections 27 and 28 of the 1988 Act.

Section 27 of the 1988 Act provides: "[5] ... the landlord ... shall not be liable to pay to the tenant residential occupier, in respect of his loss of the right to occupy the premises in question as his residence, damages ...

"[6] Nothing ... affects the right ... to enforce any liability which arises apart from this section in respect of his loss of the right to occupy premises as his residence; but damages shall not be awarded both in respect of such a liability and in respect of a liability arising from a breach of any covenant or agreement which is an accessory

from whom a stay of execution was sought that the constitutional motion was venacious as being plainly and obviously ill-founded, then it was right for the court to refuse a stay even in death penalty cases.

In cases where the motion raised a fairly arguable point, even if the court believed the application for a stay considering the motion was ultimately likely to fail, the case was not appropriate to be decided under the pressures of time which always attended applications for a stay of execution.

If the insurance judge or the Court of Appeal reached the view that the constitutional motion was hopeless that no stay should be granted, it did not follow that it was inappropriate to grant a short stay of execution.

Landlord for

Mr John Sreen-
for the landlord; Mr Michael J. Fay for the tenant.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the landlord, relying on section 2(5) and the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Mason v The Times* (1993) 1 All ER 993, (1993) 1 HLR 40, had been wrong to award the tenant the £500 in addition to the statutory damages.

In *Mason* it was held that the general damages were attributable to the loss of the right to occupy premises and Lord Justice Dillon said that the case was clearly one in which the tenant had suffered the statutory damages.

to enable that decision to be made on appeal.

Great difficulty had been encountered by the petitioner in convening a Court of Appeal in the Bahamas and a Board of the Privy Council with sufficient speed to deal with the appeals in the shortest time available before the time fixed for execution.

Even if a court decided in such a case not to grant a full stay until determination of the constitutional motion itself, the court should grant a short stay, a manner of execution, to enable its decision to be executed on appeal.

Issuance of a death warrant has a uniquely irreversible process. It was neither just nor seemly that a man's life should depend upon whether an appellate court could be convened in the limited time available.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Charles Russell.

for breach

recovered for wrongful eviction.

In his skeleton argument Mr. Sy distinguished the instant case from *Mason* on the basis that the judge had not awarded the general damages for any loss of the right to occupy but rather for breaches of the covenant for quiet enjoyment.

That distinction was a sound one. The £500 related to the tenant's complaints of harassment against the landlord and not to her claim for statutory damages for unlawful eviction.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Kerr agreed.


Solicitors: Mander & Sharma, Birmingham; Challinor Roberts Brookes, Southampton.

ly praised the authorities establishing that a general employer remained subject to his duty to exercise due care and skill for the safety of his employees and having Lord Haleham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, in *McDermid v Nash Dredging & Reclamation Co Ltd* (1987) AC 36, 90H that "the employer cannot escape liability if the duty has been delegated and then not properly performed" had gone on to reject the general employer's contention that because it was not exercising control over the plaintiff it should not be held liable.

But it was pointed out in *Morris* at 11 that there was negligence on the part of a supervisor to whom the employee had been entrusted, the

TIMES
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TOKEN 17

Dual damages against landlord for breach

Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Goff (dissenting June 7).
The court found that the tenant had suffered legal damages could be recovered against a landlord for breaches of covenant in addition to damages awarded against him for damages for loss of occupation under sections 27 and 28 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the landlord, Gurnell Singh Gill, from the decision of Judge Orme in Dudley City Council v Gurnell Singh Gill, 1994. The tenant, Daljit Kaur, was awarded £500 for

proaches of the covenant for quiet enjoyment and damages of \$15,000 under sections 27 and 28 of the 1986 Act.

Section 27 of the 1986 Act provides: "(3) ... the landlord ... shall ... be liable to pay to the former residential occupier, in respect of his loss of the right to occupy the premises in question as his residence, damages ..."

"(3) Nothing ... affects the right ... to enforce any liability which arises apart from this section in respect of his loss of the right to occupy premises as his residence. Any damages shall not be awarded ... in respect of such a liability and in respect of a liability arising otherwise of this section, any amount ..."

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the landlord, relying on section 2(5) and the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Mason v. Wharfedale* (The Times October 19, 1993; [1994] 2 EHLR 60), had been wrong to award the tenant the £200 in addition to the statutory damages.

In *Mason* it was held that the general damages were attributable to the loss of the right to occupy the premises and Lord Justice Dillon said that the case was clearly one where they should be set off against the statutory damages.

recovered for wrongful eviction.

In his skeleton argument Mr. Sly distinguished the instant case from *Mason* on the basis that the judge had not awarded the general damages for any loss of the right to occupy but rather for breaches of the covenant for quiet enjoyment.

That distinction was a sound one. The £500 related to the tenant's complaints of harassment against the landlord and not to her claim for statutory damages for unlawful eviction.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Kennedy agreed.

Solicitors: Mander & Sharma, Birmingham; Challinor Roberts Criskey, Smethwick.

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TOKEN 17

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TOKEN 17

South Africa gamble on Joubert for semi-final

Selectors shuffle pack to wrap up French jumpers

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

ON THE one hand, South Africa say that they must concentrate upon their own game for their Rugby World Cup semi-final against France in Durban on Saturday. On the other, they acknowledge the strengths of their opponents and so select Mark Andrews, their talented young lock, at No 8, where he has not played since his school days.

However you look at it, the selection is a gamble. Even more is the decision to field Andre Joubert, another Natalian, at full back after he broke a bone in his hand against Western Samoa last Saturday. To be fair, the South African management acknowledges the risk and will not hesitate to pull Joubert out if necessary, but he is not being sent for daily treatment in a compression chamber at the Institute of Aviation Medicine in Pretoria just so that he can watch from the sidelines.

Even if Joubert plays, there are five changes, albeit two positional, from the XV that beat the Samoans 42-14. Andrews takes the place occupied by Rudolph Strauli and his own position goes to Hannes Strydom, now recovered from



the eye injury sustained against Canada. Joel Stranksy, who damaged an eye in the same game, returns at stand-off half, with Hennie le Roux moving to centre at the expense of Christian Scholz. The final change restores James Small to the right wing. Most South Africans love the brash Small: most coaches have reservations about his discipline. His ability is not in doubt, but his temperament is. While recovering from a strained hamstring, he has had time to reflect upon the ups and downs of his career, though of more concern this week will be the form of Philippe Saint-André, the mercurial France captain, who opposes him.

France have made only one change, with the introduction of Fabien Galthié at scrum half. Galthié, 26, played in all

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA: A.J. Joubert, J.T. Smit, J.C. Mulder, H.P. le Roux, C.M. Williams, T. Stranksy, J.H. van der Westhuizen, P. du Randt, C.L.C. Rossouw, S. Swart, J.F. Pienaar (captain), J.J. Wiese, J.J. Strydom, R.J. Kruger, M.G. Andrews.

FRANCE: J.H. Sadourny, E.N. Tanack, P. Sella, T. Lacroix, P. Saint-André (captain), C. Deylaud, F. Galthié, L. Amery, J.M. Gonzalez, C. Calafano, A. Barazani, O. Merle, O. Roumat, L. Cabannes, M. Cellier.

the games of the 1991 tournament, but has been out of favour since last year. However, he has been playing club rugby in Cape Town and joined the party when Guy Accoceberry broke a bone in his arm against Scotland. Now, he displaces Aubin Hueber as France attempt to repair the weak link at half back.

"We had an obvious problem with the backs against Ireland," Pierre Berbizier, the coach, said. "We kept Christophe Deylaud because he forms a triangle with Lacroix and Sella which we know can work efficiently." It did against New Zealand last year, and the other options at stand-off half — Yann Delaigue, Thierry Lacroix or even Franck Mesnel — seem less than convincing.

"I expect the forwards to be

as good as they were against Ireland, but I expect the half backs to improve so that we can be freed from our chains," Berbizier said. However, so why a coach will surely attempt to take advantage of Andrews's presence at No 8, which is an attempt to bolster the struggling South Africa lineup against the France jumpers, whom Kitch Christie, the South Africa coach, believes are the best combination in the tournament.

Andrews, 23, points out that his first international was as a flanker in Argentina two years ago. "I played all my rugby at school as eighth man and I am very excited about it now," he said. "All the forwards know the back-row moves, so that will be no problem."

Meanwhile, Joost van der Westhuizen, the scrum half who took such a physical battering from the Western Samoans, has issued a categorical denial that he hurled racist remarks at the islanders during their quarter-final, or that he hit anyone, as Pat Lam, the Samoa captain, had implied. "I'm very disappointed that my name has been pushed through the mud," van der Westhuizen said, and added, a touch histrionically, "if he [Lam] can't show any bite marks, I'll sue him."

All Blacks look to Mehrtens to make the running

FROM GERALD DAVIES
IN JOHANNESBURG

FROM 1985 until 1993, the New Zealand resident stand-off half, or first five-eighths as they prefer to be called, was Grant Fox. During that time, the record books were regularly rewritten.

Look up the statistics and anything that necessitated the use of the boot to accumulate points in international matches was the preserve of Fox, the most prolific points scorer in New Zealand history.

This coincided with a period when the All Blacks, under the captaincy of Wayne Shelford, went on a record undefeated run — 23 games between 1987 and 1990. But then, when Fox retired, no immediate heir emerged to inherit his crown. All Blacks supporters experienced an unsettling time. The signs are, though, that this interregnum at last appears to be over.

A new and exciting talent has emerged in the No 10 shirt during this World Cup. Andrew Mehrtens is a player with a promising Scrabble-hand of a surname. He has established himself in such a way as to convince his countrymen that the search is over and, since he is only 22, that a prosperous time lies ahead. Typically, the man himself is keen.

"I am in the team and I have been made to feel comfortable," Mehrtens says. "But I am aware that I have now to prove myself to be a good All Black. I am surrounded by a management team of former players which ensures that I understand what that tradition stands for. I also know that a player can have a successful first year but the second year, when people know me better, may be more difficult."

With the likes of Lochore, Meads, Mains and Kirton to guide him in South Africa, Mehrtens has tutors who will instil in him the respect and pride required of anyone chosen to wear the silver fern.

He was born in Durban in 1973, after his parents went to teach in South Africa for five years. His father was a stand-off half, too, and played for Natal during his time there. It was at full back, however, that Mehrtens senior played against the touring All Blacks in 1970.

The family returned home in 1974. Mehrtens junior played at every level at school but he was not to play higher than provincial representative level until he was 18. An encouraging mentor became a valuable asset at that stage. "My coach, Alec Stewart, was in charge of the under-18



Mehrtens brings an exciting new dimension to the role of New Zealand stand-off half

South Island team and was then promoted to coach the New Zealand under-19s and then on to Canterbury, the 5th and 13th stone player says. "At each stage he took me with him. So he's given me three good breaks."

Mehrtens now plays for Christchurch High School Old Boys and Canterbury. A leg injury ruled him out of the North versus South Island match which was a final trial for the World Cup selection. Given that the South Island suffered a heavy defeat, this was probably a piece of good fortune. He made the tour party and gained his first cap against Ireland, since when he has also played against Wales and Scotland.

Mehrtens has accumulated 60 points in the tournament

so far, 52 of them with his boot. But, if his line kicking was a significant feature against Wales — one kick stretched from his own 22-metre line in the Welsh corner flag — it was his 60-metre run against Scotland that gave a strong hint of his other gifts and which indicated that he is not cut out of the Fox mould.

Mehrtens has pace and is able to change his angle of running and retain his balance. Thus he was able to beat Bryan Redpath on the outside, check Gavin Hastings's covering defence and then take the ball to the try. It is rare for a New Zealander in this position to show such a clean pair of heels.

"Viewing it afterwards, I felt embarrassed," he says. "I looked like a frightened rabbit."

I don't think Hastings expected me to have the confidence to go round him. But I must admit to liking the longer dashes.

"I did spend one summer improving my running technique and, along with our training camp this year, it all seems to have worked."

Mehrtens is in his fifth year at a university student in Christchurch. He has had to delay making his history degree because of his rugby commitments. "I suppose I do like to run but I have to control it and to choose my moment," he says.

"The rest of us want to learn to expect such surprises and to look forward to many more such moments."

Cabannes fit to outflank hosts

David Hands on the France forward who has triumphed over adversity

CHAMPAGNE rugby: the perennial description of the French approach when viewed from the northern side of the Channel, though there have been times when the fizz has fallen a bit flat — nearly every season, in fact, that France have achieved a grand slam in the five nations' championship. That is because the sparkle of Paris in the spring does not always accord with the harsh demands of winning rugby.

This year, France were neither one thing nor the other, but they left, even so, amid the wreckage of a mediocre championship, one haunting image: the try scored at Twickenham by Sebastian Vians, which started inside the France 22. The player who gave Vians the scoring pass was Laurent Cabannes, the flanker, who, nearly nine months earlier, was also involved in the "try" from the end of the world, scored against New Zealand by Jean-Luc Sadourny.

Set the French alight, and Cabannes is the one smoking the burners. If, on Saturday evening, the French have wrecked South African hopes of playing a World Cup final in Johannesburg, it is prob-

ble that the man that his colleagues call "Lolo" will have played a creative part in the destruction.

Six years ago, few would have bet on Cabannes playing in a World Cup, never mind a semi-final of such significance as that against the host country in Durban. He was struggling to come to terms with the motor accident that left his right shoulder and arm al-



Cabannes: accident victim

most useless. So many bones were broken, so many nerves severed, that he had no power in his right arm. Even today, it is significantly weaker than his left.

The accident came at a time when the man from Reims, who made his senior debut for Pau at 17, had broken into the back row of the France B team and was regarded as a likely candidate for the seniors. An intelligent, perceptive player blessed with great pace and superb hands, Cabannes, who now plays for Racing, in Paris, runs on instinct — hence his appearance at Twickenham at the critical moment to sustain a movement that emphasised that French flair is not merely a token phrase.

"I kept alive my appetite for competition; I am a serious competitor," Cabannes said. He comes from a family of volleyball players, and that sport provided a non-contact way of regaining his athleticism. Nevertheless, his first selection for France, as a replacement against New Zea-

land in November 1990, represented a personal, as well as a sporting, triumph.

Now 31, he has accumulated 39 caps and a global reputation. Not only do they love him on the boulevards but in Cape Town, where he played for the False Bay club and Western Province last summer.

Pierre Berbizier, the France coach, has the same appreciation, which is why it was doubly hard for him to drop Cabannes — and five others — for the final championship match, with Ireland, in March. An example had to be made, Berbizier felt, after the poor results against England and Scotland. Now, however, Cabannes is part of a team that is seeking the blend of forward and back play which has fully illuminated this World Cup, but seldom at the same time.

Should France beat South Africa, no better man could be on hand than Cabannes, a champagne salesman. Whether he would be the toast of Cape Town when the tournament is over — he is 90 per cent certain about returning to False Bay — must be open to doubt.

In-depth research into a research career

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

Research Vacancies

This week The Times Higher Education Supplement publishes a complete updated list of research degree vacancies and research jobs.

We also assess the economic chaos surrounding research grants and offer useful information on the pitfalls of doing a PhD abroad.

On the lighter side we take a look at a student magazine written by research students.

So if you're going into research, no-one goes deeper than The Higher.

You can also access the research list on our Internet service at: <http://www.timeshigher.newsint.co.uk>

AT NEWSAGENTS • EVERY FRIDAY

FIXTURES

CRICKET
Britannia Assurance county championship
11.0, first day of four, 110 overs minimum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Somerset
DOLWYN BAY: Glamorgan v Middlesex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Hampshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire
LUTON: Northamptonshire v Essex
HORSHAM: Sussex v Surrey
WIMBORNE: Worcestershire v Lancashire
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Kent
Tour match
10.45, 35 overs
EDINBURGH (Rugby Place): Scotland v West Indians

MINOR COUNTRIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two)
TOTT: Cheshire v Cornwall
LEIC: Suffolk v Cambridgeshire
BAIN HOGS: Dorset v Devon
Aldershot: Durham v Derbyshire
Haywards Heath: Sussex v MCC Young Cricketers
Barnard (Park Avenue): Yorkshire v Lancashire

FOOTBALL
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (Semi-final): Sweden: United States v Norway (Vesteraas, 7.15); Germany v China (Johannesburg, 7.15)

OTHER SPORT
GOLF: Jersey Open (La Moye); British women's amateur championship (Royal Portlough)
HOCKEY: Women's European Nations' Cup (Amstelveen, Holland); Pool A: Italy v Belgium (6.0); France v England (8.0); Pool C: Czech Republic v Scotland (2.0); Spain v Russia (4.0)
SPEEDWAY (7.30 universal standard): Premier League: Middlesbrough v Edinburgh; Sheffield v Coventry (7.45); British Academy Knockout Cup: First round, second leg: Stoke (8.1) v Exeter (4.0)
TENNIS: Stella Arco championship (Queen's Club); DFS Classic women's tournament (Birmingham)

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

How would you set about this hand? You are in 7 NT and North leads the 10 of spades.

♠ KQJ ♠ A83
♥ AQ94 ♥ KJ62
♦ A8 ♦ K8
♣ KQ102 ♣ A954

You have 12 tricks on top (three in spades, four in hearts, two in diamonds and three in clubs). No problem if the clubs are three — two. You can also pick up jack to four clubs in either hand. However, if you play clubs immediately by, say, cashing the king and queen, and South turns out to have the four to the jack, you will have to lose a trick. On the other hand, if you play king then ace of clubs, North may turn out to have the jack to four. The correct technique is to play off all your spades, hearts and diamonds first and notice what happens.

It might go like this:
(a) South follows to two spades, then throws a diamond; (b) South follows to two hearts, and then discards another diamond; (c) Both North and South follow to two rounds of diamonds.

Now, how would you play the clubs? This is where count-

ing the distribution helps. From the play to the spades, North is marked with five; he has also shown up with three hearts and two diamonds. Therefore, he has, at most, three clubs, so you play king of clubs and a club to the ace — if anyone has four, it will be South.

Take a more extreme case: North shows out on the second spade and on the first heart, marking South with six spades and five hearts. South follows to two rounds of diamonds. Now, you know that South has no clubs — all 13 of his cards are accounted for. You lead the two of clubs from hand, and, if North follows with the three, snugly put on dummy's four.

Finally, what would you do if North turned up with five spades and two hearts, and both players followed to two rounds of diamonds? Now, there is no certain play in the club suit, but it is better to play South for the four, as he had only five major-suit cards to North's seven.

I will go into this type of reasoning in more detail in a later refresher column.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

WIRROCK
a. A caterpillar
b. A corn
c. To prevaricate

XIPHOD
a. Sword-shaped
b. A swordfish
c. A drinking goblet

VALETAILE
a. Overall height
b. Imaginary illness
c. A lot of valets

YEMEN
a. A keeper
b. A latch lock
c. A tress of hair

Answers on page 44

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Harriet's win

This win, by Harriet Hunt, 17, the Oxford player, celebrates her success as runner-up to Michael Adams in the British Chess Federation/Leigh Awards player-of-the-year awards.

White: Mortensen

Black: Hunt

Hastings 1995

Caro-Kann Defence

1 ♠4 c6
2 Nf3 d5
3 Nc3 Bg4
4 B3 Bx3
5 Qd3 Nf6
6 Q3 e6
7 B3 Bc6
8 Q4 Qb6
9 Q5 Nd7
10 Nf4 Nc6
11 B3 0-0-0

Diagram of final position

12 0-0 Rd8
13 Qg2 Nc7

14. b4
15. Ne2
16. h4g5
17. Bc3
18. f4
19. Bb2
20. Rf1
21. Bg4
22. Qd6
23. b5
White resigns

British successes

In the Sigeman Wernbro international grandmaster tournament, in Malmö, Sweden, Matthew Sadler, of Great Britain, shared second prize behind Ivan Sokolov, the former Yugoslav grandmaster, and defeated Sokolov in their individual game. In the open tournament in Ischia, Italy, grandmaster Michael Adams, by scoring 8.5/9 set a British record for a performance rating in an open tournament, namely 2,935 international rating points.

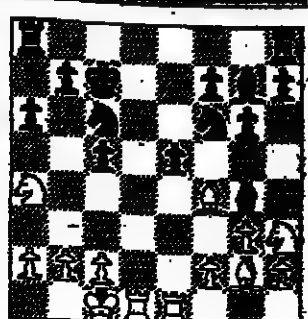
In memoriam

There will be a memorial service today at 6pm at Westminster Abbey for Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, who was one of Britain's top players and, from 1938 to 1945, chess correspondent of *The Times*.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Dunworth — Summerscale, four nations rapid play, 1995. Although queens have been exchanged, White has a very strong attack against the black king. What is his best continuation?



Solution on page 44

Derby pitch under scrutiny

[illegible]

European contingent enjoys a welcome change in preparing for US Open

Conditions favour Faldo's ambitions

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK

AS THE rain attempted to batter the Shinnecock Hills golf course into submission yesterday morning, a tall figure shrouded in waterproofs and shielded by an umbrella from the belting rain walked out of the white, wooden clubhouse perched on a hill and picked his way through the mud, sand patches and puddles. He must have felt at home. This is a typical British summer's day," Nick Faldo said. "This US Open is more British than the British Open."

There, in one sentence, is what makes the 100th US Open both the most interesting for years and the one most likely to be won by a player who hails from continents to the east of the US. "This course is like Royal Zante in Belgium," Faldo said. "It's a natural piece of land by the

where the 1990 US Open was held, was a high temple to American ostentation, and Oakmont, the site of the event last year, was a monument to industrial grit. Shinnecock Hills is a tribute to the understated.

Not since 1986, when the US Open was last held here, will a site have so suited those Europeans who learnt their trade on greens with wide open approaches, the better to run the ball up, and where the wind is rarely absent — even when the rain abates, giving firmer ground.

The women's golf committee recently donated to the club an anemometer, a device for measuring the strength of the wind. The lowest recording to date is 14mph, the highest 31.2mph. The daily average is 31.2mph. Even the so-called links of California's Pebble Beach, which is really part links, part parkland, did not come as close as the 1992 US Open to welcoming the invaders from Europe with such open arms.

Ernie Els defends the title it took him 92 holes to win last year in good heart, though with more than half an eye on the rugby players of his country as they prepare for their semi-final in the World Cup. Els's form since last year suggests not only that his victory was far from a fluke but that he has coped with the added chores that come with being US Open champion better than many, with victories on two continents this year.

"Oakmont was target golf," Els said. "You had to hit the ball high and bring it down very soft. There was no wind to talk about. This year is going to be different. You have the wind blowing, rain and we are playing a links course so you have to be able to shape the ball from left to right and right to left. You won't get anybody walking away with the title or being lucky or anything. You've got to play well to win."

After making a thorough reconnaissance mission lasting three days last week, Faldo believes he can win. He is relaxed and happy and the hiatus three weeks ago when he lost a two-stroke lead with seven holes remaining is behind him. From tee to green, he looks in good nick, so to speak. He is ranked eighth in



Woods plays out of a bunker during a practice round for the US Open. Photograph: Kathy Willens



Els: defending champion

coast. If it's not quite a true links, it is pretty close to it. "It's a manicured links," Colin Montgomerie said. "You wouldn't find the fairways as soft or as consistent at home as they are here. It is everything I thought it was going to be and the condition of it is superb. I have never seen 18 greens as consistent as these in speed and texture."

Europeans should feel at home in these parts of Long Island, where there is a golf club called Maidstone and a town called Southampton. Shinnecock Hills is at the eastern end of the island that is New York's playground. Here in midsummer, sunshine should dance on the waters of the Atlantic while partygoers revel in handsome houses on shore. Whereas Medinah, near Chicago,

driving accuracy, sixth in reaching greens in regulation and second, with an average of 69.65, in scoring to Greg Norman. To see him putting cross-handed continues to look strange, however.

Might this be Greg Norman's year? It most certainly was not in 1986 when the Open was last held here and Norman led after three rounds only to blow up in the fourth. Norman, who won a tournament two weeks ago after a six-week layoff, when he needed only 12 putts for his last

three victories between them this year. Both are precisely the kind of hardened, capable players who could win here on Sunday; both have played considerably in Britain.

Yet the suspicion remains that it will be a European, or at least a player who learnt his craft on the courses of Europe, who will win. This rules out Tiger Woods, the prodigy who has never been to Britain, but not Severiano Ballesteros, José María Olazábal or Bernhard Langer, who won in Germany last week. They are among the

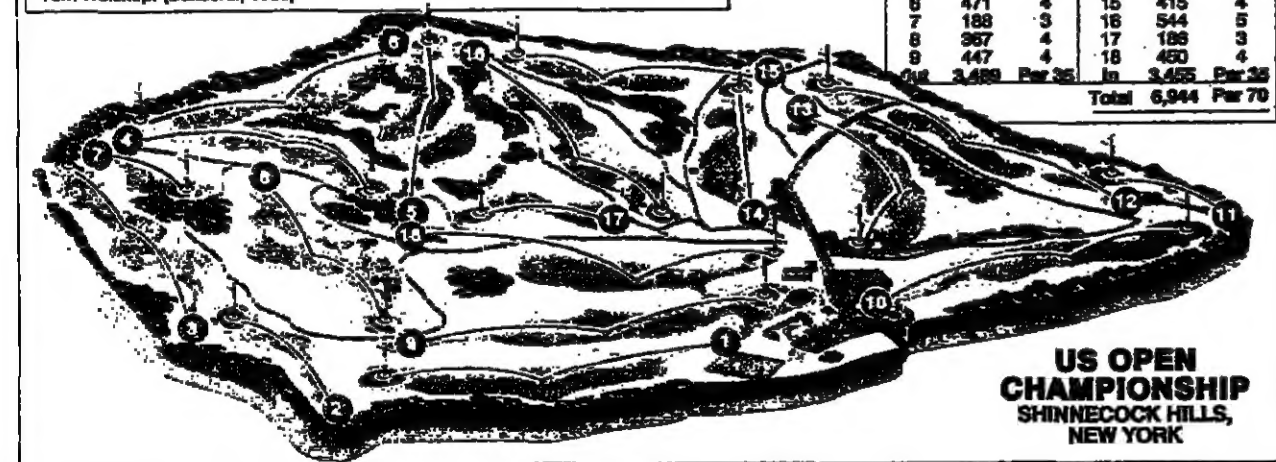
men Faldo had in mind when he said: "I think it is going to be an obvious name at the end of this week that is going to win, someone who is playing very solidly from tee to green. This is a great test of golf."

That sentiment was echoed by Ray Floyd who won here with a total of one under par in 1986 and is hardly an unbiased witness. Few disagreed with him when he said: "It is just so natural and lays out so beautifully. It tests everything that I have ever known about in the game of golf."

RECORDS

Oldest champion: Hale Irwin (48) 1990
Youngest champion: John McDermott (19) 1911
Most wins: 4: Willie Anderson, Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus
Lowest score: 272: Jack Nicklaus (Golfers, 1980), Lee Janzen (Baltusrol, 1983)
Lowest round: 58: Johnny Miller (Oakmont, 1973), Jack Nicklaus (Baltusrol, 1980), Tom Weiskopf (Baltusrol, 1980)

Hole	Yards	PAR	Hole	Yards	PAR
1	234	3	10	499	4
2	226	3	11	158	3
3	453	4	12	472	4
4	408	4	13	377	4
5	535	5	14	444	4
6	471	4	15	415	4
7	188	3	16	544	5
8	367	4	17	186	3
9	447	4	18	450	4
Total: 6,944 Par 70					



US OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP HILLS, NEW YORK

Hall rules as McKay owns up

By Mel Weiss

GOLFING people being the upright, honest citizens they are, it came as no surprise at all when Mhairi McKay voluntarily took a stroke more than the number of shots she played in the Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship yesterday.

McKay, the first-round leader after a course record 71, reached the 13th green at a bittersweet and bittered Claret Royal Portrush with a fine drive and an eight-iron that stopped 12 feet past the pin. She putted down to 18 inches — then came calamity.

Instead of marking her ball and replacing it before tapping in, McKay walked straight up to it, and as she prepared to putt, the ball

moved a fraction of an inch. She immediately informed Lee Ann Vogel, her playing partner, and called a penalty shot on herself.

For those who have a fondness for the minutiae of the rules, the one that she transgressed was Rule 18-2, (b), which reads: "If a player's ball in play moves after he has addressed it (other than as a result of a stroke) the player shall be deemed to have moved the ball and shall incur a penalty stroke." It is clear enough, if sexually discriminatory in not admitting to the fact that women play the game as well.

The upshot was that McKay, who led by one stroke overnight, bogeyed the hole

and undid the good work she had put in to pull back a morale-deflating double-bogey on the 1st by scoring birdies on the 7th and the 9th. However, she remained philosophical about her misfortune.

"It's happened to me before," McKay said. "When I saw it move, I knew it was a penalty stroke. It was my own fault — I should have watched it and replaced it. That's golf with the smooth."

Not that there was a great deal of rough after the 362-yard 1st, where she missed the fairway off the tee and failed to get out of the vegetation with her second shot. Out in three, she then compounded her gaffe by three-putting. She got

one of the shots back when she chipped to six inches on the 7th, and balanced the books by chipping to two feet on the 9th. The unlucky 13th having been negotiated at last, she holed a 15-foot putt for a birdie on the 15th, only to three-putt the 16th.

On a day that gave summer in Ulster a bad name, her one-over-par round of 76 left her in a satisfying second place in the qualifying competition that produced the 64 players who go into the matchplay stages of the championship today.

McKay held the lead until late in the day, when Julie Hall, the winner of the title in 1990, lived up to the responsibility of being the pre-tournament favourite with a fine 70, beating the course record set by McKay the day before by one shot.

Hall, 28, who finished with a total of 144, six under par and three ahead of McKay, goes into the first round of matchplay today with form on her side — she recently won the English title for the third time.

It was a very quiet triumph — Hall has suffered for seven months from a painful-sounding condition called laryngeal dysphonia, long words that mean she lost her voice. Four birds on the marginally less difficult outward nine, and another at the 12th, had her whispering with delight.



Hall: heads qualifiers after course record

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Hands across
the channels

The John Humphrys Interview. Radio 4, 9.30am.

Humphrys, who is one of the sharpest interviewers on television or radio, has Michael Grade of comparatively lightly in the second encounter of his new series. Yet not even he can weaken Grade's vigorous defence of those Channel 4 programmes that continue to set the industry's watchdogs snapping angrily at Grade's heels. Humphrys's biggest coup this morning is to manoeuvre Grade into a position where he seems to be sounding a rallying call on behalf of his rival, the BBC. If necessary, he says, he would go to the barricades to save his one-time employer about whose prospects he has spoken so gloomily of late.

Return to Rolling Thunder. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

Simon Dring's retracing of his journeys through South-East Asia 30 years ago marks an important departure for Radio 4's *The World Tonight*. One of its main features has thrown off the news magazine's protecting arm to stand on its own two feet. To judge from part one of Dring's series it stands on them very sturdily indeed. Dring reports from Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, where he meets old friends and observes the political and social changes that have come about. Human touches abound. He returns to the Mekong riverbank where he first fell in love. And — a classic reconciliation story — he meets the former Vietnam fighter's daughter whose boyfriend is an American veteran of the Vietnam War.

Peter Doolittle

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>PM Stereo. 4.00am Dave Pearce 6.30 Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Funnell 2.00-4.00 Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.00 Michael Jackson Danny Kelly, editor of Q, assesses the future for the troubled star 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Chris Shirley</p>	<p>All times in BST. 5.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.30 News 7.15 World Today 7.30 Sport 8.00 News 8.15 Farming Today 8.30 Newsday 8.00 News in German 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.45 Newsday 8.00 News 10.05 World Business 10.15 Sport 11.00 Newsday 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf: The Diamond as Big as the Ritz Newsday 12.00 The Streets of London: Not King Cole 1.00 News in German 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Assignment 2.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.05 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 4.50 News 5.15 Newsday's Test: 5.45 Fourth Estate 6.00 News 6.05 World Business 6.30 The Streets of London 6.30 News in German 7.00 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Latest report says Royal Navy all at sea

How unfair of people to say that the summer holidays are full of repeats. Last night, for instance, we had Sir John Harvey-Jones making a lengthy sea voyage in the latest of his autobiographical series, this time wondering what it is to become of his beloved Royal Navy.

Sir John did not need long to discover that there is a fleet looking for a role, guided by a top-heavy structure involving too many admirals sat behind desks. If this sounds vaguely like a repeat, I will save you the trouble of looking it up.

Stick close to your desks and never go to sea.

And you may be Rulers of the Queen's Navy!

Sir John reckoned that not much had changed about the Navy's structure since Nelson's time. Certainly not since W.S. Gilbert's 1879 libretto for *The Pirates of Pen-*

zance. As we have seen from his excursions into industry, Sir John is a dab hand at avuncular astuteness and there were plenty of excuses to display it here.

The idea that Royal Navy officers and other ranks still do everything from training to eating in separate locations had his eyebrows heading for his hairline at high speed.

His splendid chubbiness, containing sufficient warmth to leave it short of ridicule, nearly lifted him off the deck of the *Ark Royal* when someone said that spending the best part of £500 million over 20 years (and counting) to develop the Merlin, the alleged replacement for the ancient Sea King helicopter, meant that the Navy would get a "mature" aircraft. "It'll be mature all right," burst Sir John, "I think I can guarantee that!"

At the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, which is half-empty (or half-full, if you prefer) Sir John

rolled the sculpted corridors and discovered that ballroom dancing is taught there, just as it was in his day.

He uttered such heresies as "cost effective" and was greeted with polite agreement, the variety that involves vigorous nodding of heads, as one tends to agree with short-term visitors who will never see again. The thing about ballroom dancing is that it teaches a chap not to tread on toes.

But Sir John dug deeper and got more. At every rank he uncovered evidence that Royal Navy personnel are at a loss to know what their role is supposed to be. He met no politicians, who are the real flies in the ointment, but there are of course a number of "reviews" under way and redundancy packages for admirals, unthinkable before the Berlin wall came down, are now commonplace.

And yet the Royal Navy Sir John served in for nearly 20 years still needs 1,200 men to crew the *Ark Royal* for the purpose of keeping seven fighters and 12 helicopters airborne off Bosnia. It is really necessary to have three eating places for various ranks plus a fourth for officers aboard the carrier?

The system dates from Sir John's serving days and all the

navy days that went before. From a time, as he put it, when "there was a marvellous certainty about life". No wonder there are those in the Admiralty who were nostalgic for the Soviet Union. You knew where you were with that: you knew your hand was firmly in the taxpayer's pocket.

But if the creaking of a few state structures is a serious matter, we could have worse things to worry about. In China the 50-50 chance of being born a boy or a girl has become a cruel lottery since Peking announced, in 1979, that in future couples would be allowed one child only.

The Chinese Government did not stipulate that the one child had to be a boy and there is evidence that efforts are being made to raise the status of girls. But there is also evidence, graphically evinced in *Secret Asia: The Dying Rooms* (Channel 4) that women lacking "permission" to be pregnant are

hailed in by the police, resulting in girl children being forcibly aborted. In some cases only a few days before they would have been born. Up to one million girl babies every year are dumped soon after birth and taken to state orphanages, where some of them are left to die.

The West from time to time expresses its displeasure at this manifest horror, but not at high volume. The makers of this documentary went undercover, posing as American orphanage workers, to film harrowing scenes of neglect, including untreated diseases, toddlers tied ankle and wrist to wooden benches with their legs splayed over potties, days-old babies left tied up with bottles propped against their cheeks.

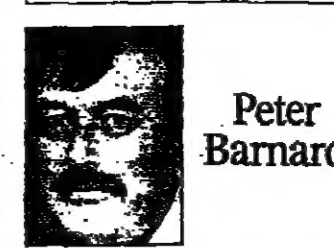
The trouble is not really deliberate cruelty or under-funding or under-staffing. The trouble is the culture, the belief that only the

male line is worth preserving. There are in China more than six million women who are called Lai-Di or Zhao-Di. These names mean, in English: "Bring a baby brother".

Without benefit of taping, viewers could not have watched both *Secret Asia* and *The Travel Show* (BBC 2), which is perhaps just as well. *The Travel Show* went to Evin, the French town we all know about because there is something in the water, to look at the exact opposite of baby neglect, which is baby bonding.

The newest spa idea is a break for mother and baby, involving (naturally) lots of Evin, both hot and cold. Swims in the sea, under it, let it give you a massage. Mothers declared themselves rejuvenated, babies seemed not to dissent (as far as one could tell). But the best thing, in the context of last night, was that they did not have to be boys.

NEW



Peter Barnard

And yet the Royal Navy Sir John served in for nearly 20 years still needs 1,200 men to crew the *Ark Royal* for the purpose of keeping seven fighters and 12 helicopters airborne off Bosnia. It is really necessary to have three eating places for various ranks plus a fourth for officers aboard the carrier?

The system dates from Sir John's serving days and all the

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (44757)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (80149047)
 - 9.05 Big Day Out. Bob Langley, Mo Dutta and Victoria Studd explore Motown and visit the Backstreet Boys (9) (8718195) 9.50 Hot Chick. Alesha Little prepares salad of sea bass (9) (8016195)
 - 10.00 News (Celestial, regional news and weather (8624202) 10.05 Kiddy Kiddy (9) (8226505)
 - 10.30 Good Morning Starline. Weekend magazine series presented by Sarah Greene and Will Horne (9) (8624202) 11.00 and 12.00 The News (8624202)
 - 12.25 Going for Gold with Henry Kelly (9) (4647778) 12.50 Regional News and weather (84123573)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Celestial) and weather (23115)
- BBC2**
- 6.30 Open University: Biology — New Formulae for Food (8625863) 6.45 Databases (9615221) 7.10 Ecology (9687287) 7.35 Man-Made Macromolecules (5942293)
 - 8.00 Breakfast News (Celestial and signing) (8786115) 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Andrew Hall (9) (8121008)
 - 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus for children 10.00 The News (8226505) 11.05 Storyline (8704047) 2.00 The Little Polar Bear (7325008) 2.05 Hairy Jerry (7325008)
 - 2.10 Tennis. The Stella Arctis Grass Court championships at Queen's Club, London (9) (5554738)
 - 3.00 News (Celestial) and weather. Westminster with Nick Ross (9) (8625554) 3.55 News (Celestial, regional news and weather (8383318)
 - 4.00 Tennis. Further coverage of the Stella Arctis Grass Court Championships (434757)
 - 6.30 Sporting Relief. Live coverage from Horse Guards Parade featuring the bands of the Royal Marines, the Light Division, the Royal Air Force and the Pipes and Drums of the Gurkhas (9) (84318)
 - 7.30 The Business: A Tale of Two Movies. (Celestial) (9) (736)
 - 8.00 Play It Again. Paul Jones introduces music from the Pebble Mill magazine series including John Dankworth and Cleo Laine, Richard Claydon, James Last and Helen Shapiro (9) (8359)
 - 9.30 More Rhodes around Britain. Chief Gary Rhodes visits Whitstable and takes a day trip to Boulogne. (Celestial) (9) (2414)
 - 9.00 FILM: Whiteflower (1991) starring Patricia Arquette, Beau Bridges and Susan Blakely. A drama, set in rural Georgia in 1936, about a party-girl child who is imprisoned by her cruel stepfather in a filthy outhouse where she is discovered by a neighbour's children who decide to look after her secretly. Directed by Diane Keaton (1467)
 - 10.30 Newswatch. (Celestial) (784045)
 - 11.15 Late Review. Arts and media magazine (9) (87221) 11.55 Weather (517775)
 - 12.00 Open View. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (9) (8228351)
 - 12.05am Engineering Mechanics. Dynamic Analysis (9) (870601)
 - 12.30 The Record. The day's proceedings in Parliament (9) (76784). Ends at 1.00
 - 4.45 BBC Select: Inland Revenue (9) (8994929) 5.00 Pathways to Care (44210)
 - 5.30-6.00 RCH Nursing Update (82264)
- BBC3**
- 10.00 Inside Story: Mountain Rescue. (Celestial) (9) (164028)
 - 11.00 Question Time from London. David Dimbleby's guests are the novelist Josephine Hart, Barbara Young, chief executive of the RSPB, and MPs Jonathan Aitken and George Robertson. (Celestial) (83592)
 - 12.00 Crimewatch UK Update. (Celestial) (9) (8211061)
 - 12.10am Golf. First round action in the US Open at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, New York (9) (83592)
 - 1.10 Weather (7036852)

- VARIATIONS**
- ANGLIA**
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SAMPRAS HOLDS ALL
THE ACES ON HIS
RETURN TO QUEEN'S

SPORT

THURSDAY JUNE 15 1995

EUROPEANS MADE TO
FEEL AT HOME
IN THE US OPEN

Rowell asks for greater productivity

England seek to build on past success

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN JOHANNESBURG

LIKE two boxers circling warily, looking for an opening, England and New Zealand were giving little away yesterday. Both countries will name their teams today for the Rugby World Cup semi-final in Cape Town on Sunday.

England had enjoyed two days of rest and recuperation when they returned here from Sun City yesterday. Rugby union was placed on the back burner for 48 hours after the dramatic quarter-final victory against Australia on Sunday — a game described, incidentally, by Neil Smith, the former South Africa coach who now looks after the Orange Free State provincial team, as the best of the tournament so far.

Yesterday, Jack Rowell's men trained in private at the Wanderers ground, though not so privately as the manager had wished; a curious crowd soon gathered to watch them and, today, England will move to the Wits Technikon ground, where they hope not to be disturbed. They will hope, too, that Will Carling, the captain, has recovered from a stomach bug that kept him confined to the hotel.

"This game cannot be any more intense than last Sunday's," Rowell said. "If the players can reproduce the same intensity of effort, and discover a little more productivity from possession won, they will be doing well. But

playing New Zealand is not about individuals. It's about the major teams in world rugby.

"As we have seen and heard, the All Blacks are very fit and they are playing fast rugby. People tell me they are playing the most positive rugby in the tournament, and all credit to them. We will go through what we know about them, get our minds round what their

where the ball is light and moves about a lot to sea level, where it doesn't travel as far," Lochore said.

In addition, it has been wet and cold in Cape Town this week. The surface will be soft and handling may be difficult. These are problems that England faced twice in their pool matches in Durban and, to a lesser degree, against the Australians. "England have a very established team and one we respect enormously," Lochore added. "But this is a one-off test, between two sides both with all-round ability."

Before Sunday, England had not beaten Australia since 1988. The majority of their players here have shared in victories against the All Blacks, either for the British Isles, in Wellington in the summer of 1993, or with England, five months later at Twickenham, and know what to expect, particularly at the lineout, where they will face one of the most consistent jumpers of recent years in Ian Jones.

"Jones is a class player and they have good jumpers in Jamie Joseph and Zinzan Brooke at the tail," Martin Bayfield, the Northampton lock, said. "There is a very physical lineout and they can disrupt quite effectively."

Which is not to say that England do not offer something of the same themselves: Martin Johnson, who developed his game by playing in New Zealand, can both give and take punishment while, against the Australians on Sunday, England were penalised more than once at the back of the lineout.

Jones is one of five potential survivors from the New Zealand XV that lost 16-6 to Australia in the semi-finals of the 1991 tournament, a position he does not seek to occupy again. "The general sporting public in New Zealand is on a high at the moment after the America's Cup victory so the expectation is there," Jones said. "But it's not a burden — unless you place it on yourself."



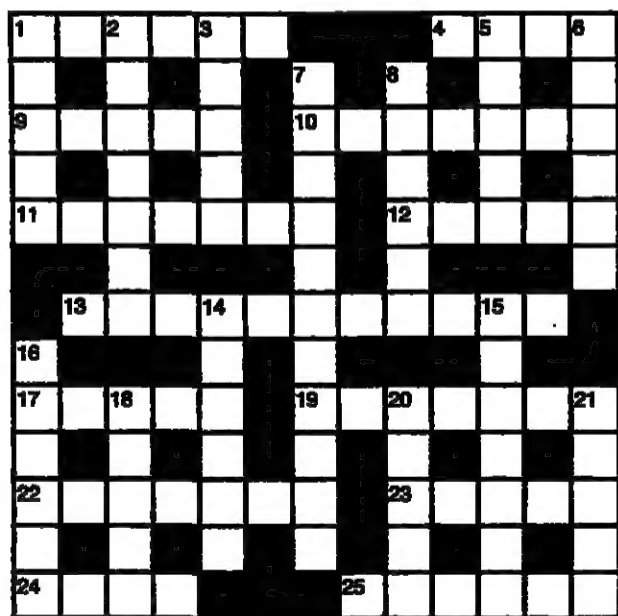
Selectors gamble 42
Cabbages threat 42
Mehrtens on run 42

threats are and how to counter them, but mainly we will focus on the England way of playing."

England have a geographical advantage denied to New Zealand, in that they have played all their games at sea level and will be doing so again on Sunday. The All Blacks have spent their tournament at altitude and, as Brian Lochore, their campaign manager, said yesterday, they must prepare for a slightly different game. "We are concerned that we are coming from an atmosphere

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 496 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 "Wot no (whatever)?" character (2,4)
- 4 Fish; complain pettily (4)
- 9 Departure; state of surface (5)
- 10 Confusion; agitation (7)
- 11 Mild (with wrongdoer) (7)
- 12 Proficient (5)
- 13 Attracting glances (3-8)
- 17 Stiff (5)
- 19 Strengthen; long pillow (7)
- 22 Telescope pioneer, suffered Inquisition (7)
- 23 Track; be behind (5)
- 24 Throw; jerk (eg head) angrily (4)
- 25 Anger; sounds like part of shirt (6)

DOWN

- 1 Powerful person (5)
- 2 Vertical steam duct (7)
- 3 Fish; point of view (5)
- 5 Unaccompanied (5)
- 6 Judge who condemned Jesus (6)
- 7 On which laws are placed (7,4)
- 8 In/exhalation (6)
- 14 Squeeze affectionately (6)
- 15 (Usu. girls') team game (7)
- 16 Giving strong light (6)
- 18 Heraldic red (5)
- 20 Door fastening (5)
- 21 Calibrated straight-edge (5)

PRIZES:

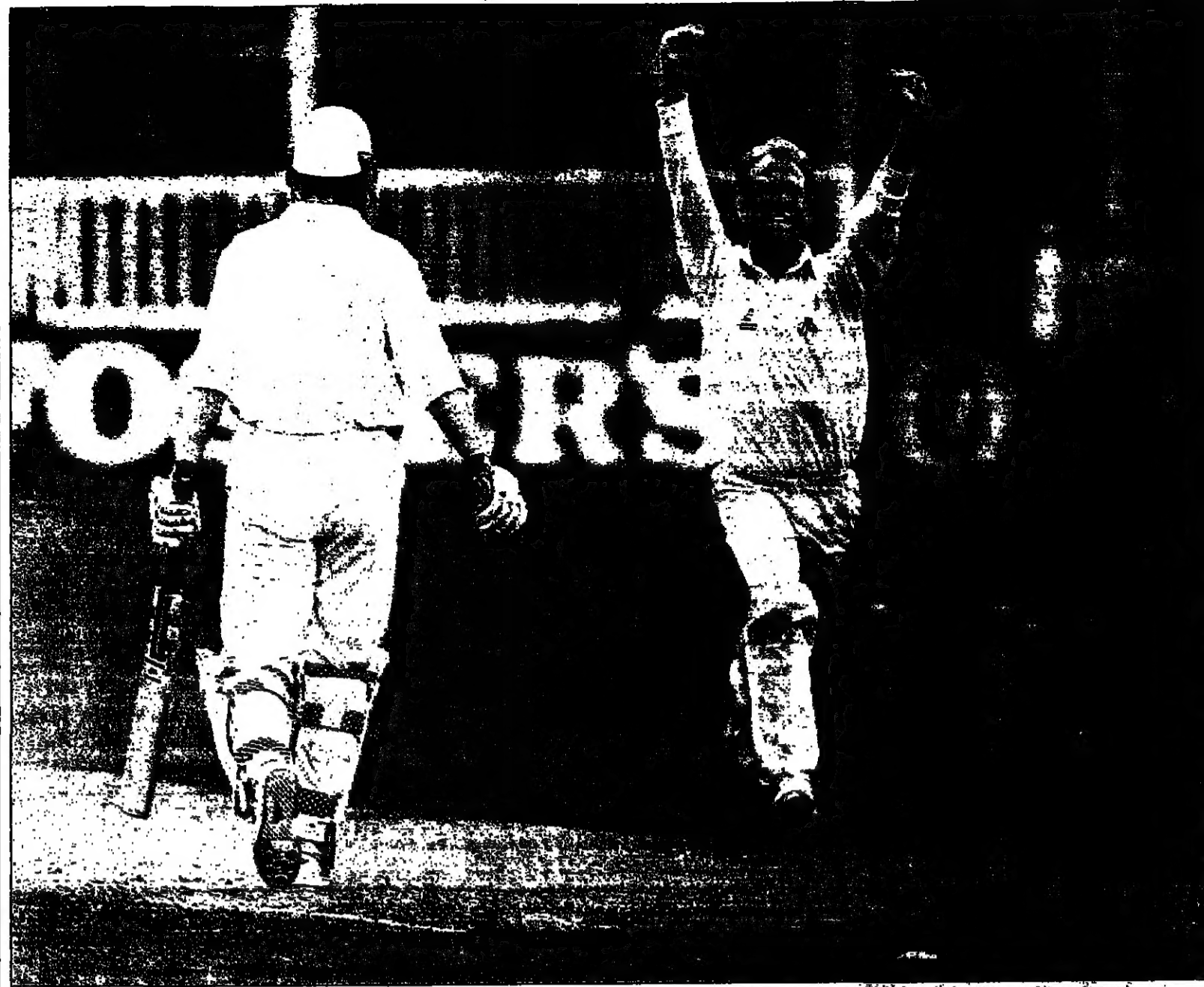
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network. All flights are subject to availability. THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.



Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8EP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names will appear on Wednesday.

SOLUTION TO NO 495

ACROSS: 1 Up to scratch 7 Farce 8 Glasses 10 Aphelion 11 Bail 13 Palace 15 Sledge 17 Box 18 Collides 21 Exclude 22 Aggro 23 Non-parasitic
DOWN: 1 Unflappable 2 Torus 3 Sherlock 4 Region 5 Tray 6 Husband 9 Silver spoon 12 Stalwart 14 Lexicon 16 Novena 19 Degas 20 Burn



Fleming celebrates bowling Bowler in the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final at Canterbury yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

Wren puts Kent on flight path to Lord's

By SIMON WILDE

CANTERBURY: Kent beat Somerset by 31 runs

KENT, who have slipped on a few banana skins in recent years, trod with a sure step yesterday towards the Benson and Hedges Cup final, where they will meet Lancashire at Lord's on July 15. They bowled so lightly and fielded so gingerly in defending a total of 250 that Somerset were closed out of the game long before the last over was bowled.

On a pitch that made run-scoring difficult throughout, there was only one stage yesterday when Somerset appeared to be in with a decent chance. That was when Lathwell and Bowler were putting on 86 for the second wicket in 28 overs, but their failure to accelerate — and, ultimately, their dismissals, Lathwell to a stunning one-

handed overhead catch by McCague in the deep — proved decisive.

Somerset, who finished on 219 for eight, got after none of the bowlers when it mattered. Mark Benson, the Kent captain, had feared that his bowlers would not bowl well under pressure but the pressure was barely applied. Somerset only seemed prepared to take risks once the asking rate had climbed alarmingly and by then it was too late.

The turning point came in the thirtieth over of the innings, bowled by Wren. The Kent left-armers does not command a regular place in the side but earlier this season he destroyed Somerset in a group match in the competition with a return of six for 41. Having bowled the dangerous Trecothick with his third ball of the day, he now removed Lathwell and Harden, who dabbed tentatively at a ball

KENT: 250 for 8 (M A Eastham 52).

SOMERSET

M N Lathwell c McCague b Wren 38

M E Trecothick b Wren 6

P D Bowler b Fleming 50

S J Hardist c Marsh b Wren 0

A N Hayhurst not out 89

G D Rose c Headley b Fleming 15

S G Ecclesstone b Fleming 3

TR J Turner c Headley b Eastham 16

Majumdar Ahmed c Benson b Headley 11

D D Bailey not out 0

Extras (6 S, 9 B) 14

Total (8 wickets, 55 overs) 219

H J Trump did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-25, 3-49, 4-110, 5-143, 6-150, 7-163, 8-214.

BOWLING: Headley 11-1-42-1; Wren 11-3-34-3; Eastham 11-4-51-3.

Umpires: J W Holder and G Sharp.

Gold award: M A Eastham (Kent).

outside off stump, within the space of three balls.

Thus, at a time when Somerset should have been accelerating, they found themselves regrouping and, in the ten overs before lunch, taken at

102 for three after 35 overs, they progressed by just 30 runs. Afterwards, the inevitable happened. Bowler, having invested 117 balls in gathering 53, chose the wrong ball to cut, and Rose and Ecclesstone, on whose hitting powers much depended, fell swiftly. All three were victims of Fleming.

With Somerset now 150 for six, the last nine overs became meaningless. Hayhurst, the Somerset captain, struck some face-saving blows, to finish unbeaten on 89 from 71 balls but the fielding side eased off with each over.

Kent are now one win away from capturing their first trophy since 1978, a date that is written on the hearts of most of their players and spectators, some 2,000 of whom returned yesterday. The final step, though, is the hardest. In the past 16 seasons, Kent have been runners-up twice in each of the four county competi-

tions, most recently in the Sunday League in 1993. The previous year they were second in the championship and lost the Benson and Hedges Cup final to Hampshire.

With hindsight, it was clear Somerset allowed Kent's low-order to gather too many runs on Tuesday. Hayhurst said yesterday: "We were taught a lesson in bowling tightly throughout an innings. I would not say we lost it then but we probably let them get 30 runs too many." Eastham, who hit 52, played a prominent part in this and duly received his second successive gold award.

Somerset have now been stopped in five semi-finals in seven years and must be starting to look back on their glory years — in their case, the early Eighties — with nostalgia.

County preview, page 45

Christie directs Heathrow outburst at photographer

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

LINCOLN CHRISTIE returns tonight to what he does best — running the 100 metres — but only after another public outburst yesterday. His threat to a photographer at Heathrow came on a day when Ian Stewart, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) head of promotions, denied that the world and Olympic champion had been asked to take a pay cut.

In an emotional outburst on television on Monday, Christie assailed the media for what he perceived to be disrespectful coverage of his career and brought forward his retirement date from after the Olympic Games next year to the end of this season. Yesterday, as he left to race in Nuremberg, feeling that he was being harassed, he confronted a photographer, saying: "I do not want to see any bloodshed on this airport, but if you want some..." That was the Great Britain men's team captain speaking.

In the Carlton programme, Sport in Question, Christie had turned on the BAF for failing in its relationship with him. "We never, ever have fun with our management," he said, adding it was not in his "camp". He was furious at what he claimed was a lower offer than last year to compete in the televised British mile.

explained that, while Christie's total pay would be less, that was because there were fewer meetings and his fee per meeting was unchanged.

Unless an agreement is reached, and if Christie sticks to his new retirement date, there will be only one more opportunity to see him race at a high level in Britain. That would be at the AAA championships in Birmingham on July 15 and 16.

All British athletes are required to compete in Birmingham that weekend if they wish to be selected for the world championships in Gothenburg in August, unless exemption is granted by the BAF track and field commission. The thought occurs that, should no solution be found to the impasse between Christie and the federation, he may feel aggrieved enough not to run in Birmingham. It is unthinkable, though, that the BAF would apply the ultimate sanction and decline him the exemption letter he would

need for selection. Morally, if not financially, the BAF is so soft with Christie. It has been so in the past and is again now. While it was always clear that not naming him on Monday, when the team was announced, as captain for the European Cup had nothing to do with a pay dispute, it was absurd that his position as captain should have been announced the next day.

It was the morning after the night before but the BAF management had no hangover. After his criticism of them, how could he be captain without an apology? Remember Will Carling? Furthermore, his disbarment on television was a public relations disaster for the sport.

Christie's sponsor, Puma, must feel like an athlete spiked. It pays him well to wear Puma shoes on television and expects exposure, not his absence from five big meetings, the first of which, at Gateshead on July 2, he has said he will definitely not run.

The fact that he is even arguing with the BAF over appearance fees is a reminder that, for all his success on the track, his performance in the promotions arena has been poor. He has made nothing like the money from commercial activities that Sally Gunnell has.

Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, described Christie yesterday as a "highly valued" member of the British "athletics family". But Christie has been unsuccessful in family matters, suffering broken relationships with the press. Frank Dick, Britain's former head coach, and now Stewart.



Christie in angry mood yesterday

Ince ready to agree £7m move to Italy

By PETER BALL

INTERNAZIONALE of Milan are confident that Paul Ince will be their player by midday today. Milan claimed last night that the player had agreed terms and will sign for them at the Terrazza Martini well before the cocktail hour.

"We have had many discussions with him and we are now in agreement about everything," Massimo Moratti, the Inter president, said at a news conference yesterday. The player is expected to receive £4 million over three years. Inter had already agreed a fee of around £7 million with Manchester United.

Ince will be the central column on which the new Inter will be built," Moratti said. "Once he starts playing, he will soon win the fans over. He is a great player, a complete player and I hope he will do as well with Inter as he did in Manchester."

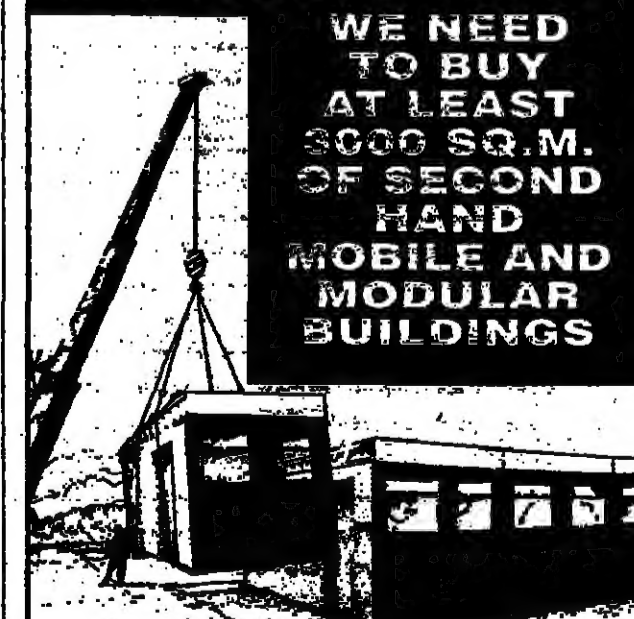
Ince flew out to Milan on Tuesday. He said then that he would not move unless his family were happy. Inter, however, are confident that that obstacle has been cleared.

Ince is not their only target at Old Trafford. Although rebuffed by Eric Cantona when the player signed a new three-year contract for United, Moratti yesterday suggested that he has not given up hope of signing the player, since Roberto Baggio now seems likely to join AC Milan, not Inter. Moratti may also follow Ince's advice and ask United about Lee Sharpe.

Pleat moves, page 45

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